

26
A COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF THE
WAR in INDIA,

From the Year 1749,
To the Taking of Pondicherry in 1761.

GIVING
A particular and circumstantial ACCOUNT of all
the Differences between the ENGLISH and FRENCH;

ALSO
The Disputes among the NABOBS, and those between
the ENGLISH and DUTCH;

TOGETHER WITH
An accurate DETAIL of all Colonel CLIVE's Military
Transactions, with those of every other OFFICER.



LONDON:

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M.DCC.LXI.

[Price Two Shillings.]

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OF THE
WAR IN INDIA
From the Year 1740
To the Taking of Pondicherry in 1761.

A particular and circumstantial Account of all
the Differences between the English and French



The Disputes and Controversies, and the Progress
of the English and French

FOOTNOTES WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY
TRANSACTIONS, WITH THE HISTORY OF THE

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TO THE HONOURABLE

ROBERT CLIVE, Esquire.

S I R,

I Take the liberty of prefixing your name to the following sheets, as it affords me an opportunity of expressing my zeal and affection for a man, who has done so much honour and service to his country, which I can testify in no better a manner, than by drawing up this summary account of your martial transactions on the coast of Coromandel and in the kingdom of Bengal, and submitting it to your inspection. The design, I hope, is laudable; for what honest Briton can withhold his tribute of gratitude, when he hears of those illustrious conquests?

Transactions which are not only glorious in themselves, but reflect an unfading lustre upon these kingdoms; and which shew, in the most striking colours, the wiles and stratagems of a cunning and vindictive enemy, at length driven desperate by a chain of misfortunes, to overcome that prudence, valour, and fore-

fight, which gave him so many total defeats.

These are martial exploits which call for an eminent distinction; they, like a new morning star, will shine in the annals of Great-Britain, and must, by the pen of every impartial writer, be accumulated with that praise they so nobly deserve.

That we may preserve and enjoy, by a safe and honourable peace, the inestimable fruits of your intrepidity, judgment, and fatigues; and that you may live to see this glorious design accomplished, are the sincere wishes of,

S I R,

Your most humble

and obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR.

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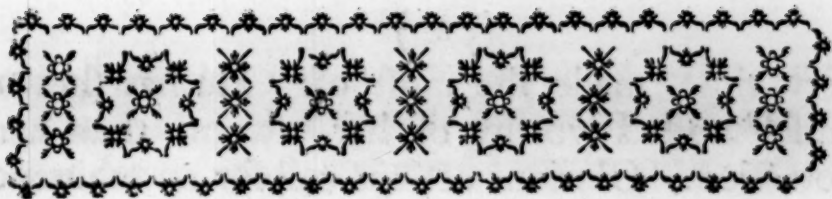
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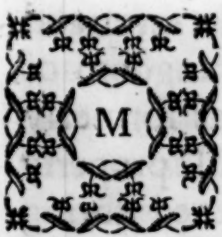
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THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
COLONEL CLIVE'S
Military Transactions.

 R. Clive is one of those heroes that are rather formed from instinct than education : consequently his exploits cannot be ranked with the illustrious heroes of antiquity ; nor be said to have equalled those of an Edward, Henry, Marlborough, or a Frederic. Though he does not stand enrolled among the foremost in the lists of fame, he is very far from deserving a place towards the latter end : the dawn of his military exploits can scarce be called a thirst of fame ; it was voluntary zeal that engaged him to wield the sword against the enemies of his country. Fortune favoured him with her happy auspices, while emulation and courage taught him to improve them ; her favours were every-where, and
B every

every time, made the most of. He has shewn himself no less worthy of her esteem, than her protection. Glorious actions call for an eminent distinction ; Mr. Clive deserves to be reckoned among the first of his countrymen, who have distinguished themselves in the present war. An impartial recital of his conduct is no other than writing his panegyric.

In order to acquaint ourselves with the motives of the war in the East-Indies, it is necessary to take notice of some particulars which are previous.

Hostilities were first committed on the coast of Coromandel ; an extensive territory, situated between the tenth and fourteenth degrees of north latitude ; bounded on the north, by the kingdom of Golconda ; on the east, by the bay of Bengal ; by the principalities of Marawia and Madura, on the south ; and by the kingdom of Bishnagar Proper, on the west. It was formerly subject to the Great Mogul, and still properly belongs to him ; but he was so weakened during his wars with the famous Kouli Khan, that he has not yet been able to assert his sovereignty over this country. The European nations that trade to India have obtained his consent to make settlements on this part of his dominions, as well as on the coast of Malabar, and on the banks of the Ganges. Because of the great distance these countries are from his capital, he appointed viceroys, or as they are called in the East, Nâvobs or Nabobs, to govern the several parts of this extensive and remote territory, which they hold under vassalage, paying

paying tribute, and doing homage, for the same ; but now they have almost shook off that yoke of dependency, and frequently make war against one another, without consulting the Mogul about the matter.

It is to a dispute of this sort that the present war in that quarter owes its rise ; in which the English were concerned, and in which Mr. Clive so bravely signalized himself ; for the Nabobs, whenever they go to war with each other, request the assistance of such Europeans as are settled nearest their dominion.

In the year 1749, animosity and jealousy began to appear among them. The nabob of Arcot had been raised to that dignity by the peculiar direction of the Mogul, who deposed Sundah Sahib, the former nabob ; but this man in revenge formed a conspiracy with some of his allies to cut off the new nabob of Arcot, and they had recourse to Monsieur Dupliex, the French governor of Pondicherry, to assist them in this enterprize ; who, on their making accession of the town of Velur, with its dependencies, consisting of forty-five villages, situated near Pondicherry, granted their request ; and Anawedi Khan, nabob of Arcot, was defeated and slain in the month of July, in the plains of his capital ; and Sundah Sahib was reinstated in the government of Arcot.

After the battle, Mahommed Ali Khan, son of the late nabob, fled to Tiruchinapalli, a place of great strength, to the southward, where he supplicated the assistance of the English ; who, in commiseration of his distress, and partly in

return for the affection his father had shewn them, sent him a reinforcement of men, ammunition, and money, under the direction of major Lawrence, an officer of known experience and valour. In consequence of this supply, some advantages were gained over the enemy: they were forced to retreat; but nothing of importance was done. Soon after, Mahommed Ali Khan went in person to Fort St. David, to solicit more powerful succours: he alledged, that his interest and that of the English were the same, inasmuch, that if the enemies were suffered to proceed in their conquests, they should be obliged to quit the whole coast. By this representation the seeds of jealousy were sown among the English; they looked upon the French as meditating a plan to extirpate them. Though fired with the thoughts of revenge, they resolved to act with deliberation; therefore they contented themselves with sending a good reinforcement, under the command of captain Cope. Nothing material, however, was attempted, and the English thought proper to recal their auxiliaries; which was no sooner made known to the French, than they, in conjunction with Sundah Saheb, determined to attack Anawerdi Khan at the head of his slender force. On the 6th day of April 1750, they obtained a complete victory over him, and once more obliged him to quit his dominions.

Finding himself unable to withstand the force of the French and their allies, he again retired to Tiruchinapalli, and solicited, in the most pressing terms, the assistance of the English, ceding to them
some

some commercial points which had been long in dispute; they, in return, entered into a treaty of alliance with him, promising to assist him to the utmost of their power; whereupon, captain Gingen, a brave Swiss gentleman, in the service of the company, and who was at Madraſs when it ſurrendered to the French, in the late war, was detached on the 5th day of April 1751, with four hundred Europeans, and a large train of artillery, to watch the motions of the enemy; at the ſame time captain Cope was ſent to put Tiruchipanalli in a poſture of defence.

At Volconda, about ſeventy miles weſt from Fort St. David, the two armies came in fight of each other, and continued in that ſituation for the ſpace of three weeks; during which time Gingen did all in his power to bring the enemy to a general engagement, but he found it impoſſible; however, frequent ſkirmiſhes happened, which commonly ended to the advantage of the Engliſh and their ally. At length the Indian governor of Volkonda declaring for the French, the Engliſh broke up their camp, and marched to Tiruchinapalli, and encamped under the walls of that place. The enemy followed as faſt as poſſible, and immediately laid ſiege to that capital*; but either their force was inſufficient, or they wanted ſpirit to proſecute their operations with vigour.

It was at this time that colonel Clive entered upon the ſtage, and began to turn the fortune of

* There are ſeveral accounts which do not ſay a word of this ſiege; but I take this from major Lawrence's own letter, written in the town, on the 12th day of June 1752.

war; he had laid aside the sword and accepted the office of purveyor to the army, but now hearing, at St. David's, that it was resolved to make a diversion in the province of Arcot, by sending a fresh detachment, in order to divide the enemies forces, he offered his service as a volunteer, without pay, to command the troops destined for this expedition. Accordingly, on the twenty-second day of August 1751, he embarked with one hundred and thirty Europeans on board the Wager, an East-India ship, for Madrafs, where he was joined by eighty more. With this slender force he began his march across the country for the city of Arcot; which on his arrival he took possession of, without opposition: the principal inhabitants, expecting to be plundered, offered him a large sum to spare their city, but he generously refused their ransom; and their safety flowed from his benevolence and amity: at the same time he caused a proclamation to be made, importing, that such as were willing to stay should receive no injury, and the rest have leave to depart with their effects of all kinds, excepting provisions, for which he promised they should be paid the full value. By this prudent behaviour, he entirely gained their affections, and in return, they afterwards contributed not a little to his safety.

Such was the secrecy and dispatch with which this enterprize was executed, that the first information the enemy received, was Mr. Clive's having taken possession of Arcot. Sundah Saheb immediately detached his son with a considerable force

force from his army, at this time beleaguering Tiruchinapalli, to lay siege to Arcot. The people, who had left that city, hearing of his motions, immediately returned, and gave Mr. Clive the most exact intelligence of the enemy's designs; so that he had time to put himself in a posture of defence, and prepare for a vigorous resistance. About the middle of September, 1751, the enemy appeared, and by the 24th, the town was completely invested and besieged; the operations were under the directions of European engineers; however, they expended a fortnight before they could effect a breach. At length, by the thirteenth day of October they had made two, which were deemed practicable; but such was the indolence of the enemy, that before they were prepared to storm the breaches, Mr. Clive, with his usual alacrity, had them filled and repaired so well, that they were as strong as any part of the walls.

About three o'clock next morning, the besiegers resolved to attack both breaches, and one of the gates, which they attempted to force open with elephants. But Mr. Clive having received intelligence of the time when the assault was to be given, had so well prepared for it with masked batteries, that he repulsed the besiegers in every quarter with great slaughter, especially at the breaches, from which scarce twenty men returned alive; upon which Mr. Clive made a well concerted and successful sally, which did the enemy considerable mischief. Next day captain Kirkpatrick arrived to his relief, with a party

party of Europeans, and two thousand Maharattas. On the first moment of his appearance, the enemy began to raise the siege, and retired with the greatest precipitation, leaving behind all their cannon, and best part of their baggage.

Captain Kirkpatrick, with his Europeans, were left in garrison at Tiruchinapalli, while Mr. Clive, reinforced by the Moharattas, marched in pursuit of the enemy, who had taken their rout northward, and had, when he overtook them, reached the plains of Arani, distant at least one hundred and fifty miles from Tiruchinapalli. It was on the third day of December, 1751, about noon, when both armies prepared to engage; Mr. Clive, at the head of his English, attacked with such impetuosity, that Sundah Saheb's troops were not able to withstand the shock; however, by advantage of their superiority in numbers, the dispute continued with great obstinacy for the space of five hours; at the end of which time victory declared for Mr. Clive, and the nabob was totally defeated. The victors obtained this advantage at a very small expence, for their whole loss, in Europeans, did not consist of twenty men; and as for the rest, they are seldom taken any notice of. Next day the city of Arani surrendered, and a few days following, that of Kajevaran. Such were the effects of a battle, which struck such a terror into the enemy, that the country surrendered rather to the conqueror's name than to the force of his arms. The enemy being now, to all appearance, dispersed,

perfed, Mr. Clive returned in triumph to Fort St. David.

But he had not refided there many months before he was ordered to take the field again. The enemy, as soon as they heard he was retired, affembled what forces they were able, and advanced to a place called the Mount, about nine miles from the town of Madrafs, where the gentlemen of that town have their country feats, which they had began to plunder, when they received intelligence of Mr. Clive's approach. The very name of this young hero was fufficient to put a ftop to their depredations. They made a precipitate retreat towards Arcot, which, Monfieur Duplieux had informed them, was only garrifoned with twenty men and a ferjeant: therefore they designed to poffefs themfelves of it; but Mr. Clive, who was reinforced with one hundred and fixty men from Bengal, penetrated into the fcheme, and followed fo clofe at their heels, that they were fain to abandon their design and encamp in the moft advantageous manner at Koverypauk; when, hearing that M. Duplieux's account of the ftrength of Arcot was falfe, they refolved to give Mr. Clive battle. Affembling their force, they found it amounted to almoft three thoufand four hundred men, with eight pieces of cannon; whereas Mr. Clive's forces did not reach one-third of that number. With this view they quitted their entrenchments on the firft day of March, 1752, and advanced in order of battle, taking poffeffion

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of

of a rising ground on the right, on which they placed fifty Europeans ; the front consisted of fifteen hundred Sipoy, and one hundred and twenty or thirty French ; while the left was composed of seventeen hundred horse. Such were the numbers and situation of the enemy, whom Mr. Clive advanced to attack, till he came within push of bayonet, ordering his men to reserve their fire till that time ; when the work was so extremely hot, that the enemy, in a short time, were obliged to retire to their intrenchments ; which Mr. Clive attacked with the greatest intrepidity, but without success. At length, when it was almost dark, and victory still remaining doubtful, his troops being raw and undisciplined, and not accustomed to attacking entrenchments, he happily thought of a step which answered his expectation, and gave him the victory. He sent a detachment round, to fall on the rear of the enemy's battery ; the design happily succeeded, as it was executed with courage, and planned with prudence. The English entered with their bayonets fixed, and firing a platoon, so disconcerted the enemy, that the right wing, to a man, threw down their arms, and surrendered prisoners of war ; while the left wing made their escape under cover of the night.

The battery had been defended by forty-eight Europeans, fourteen Topasses or Portuguese of the country, and a body of natives ; all of whom were made prisoners ; a greater number was killed. The victors took eight pieces
of

of cannon, nine tumbrels of powder, one hundred and eight stands of arms, with the loss of only twenty-seven men killed and wounded. The victory would have been more brilliant, had it not been for the intervention of the night; however, it proved such a severe blow to the enemy, that in the province of Arcot they were not able to make head again.

The brave and fortunate captain Clive, having fulfilled his orders, now prepared to return to Fort St. David, whither he arrived on the eleventh day of March. Here he found major Lawrence, just arrived from England, ready to take upon him the command of the forces, as superior officer. On the the 17th of the same month, they set out at the head of 400 Europeans and 1000 Sipoy, well provided with provision of all kinds, for the relief of captain Gingen, who had been since last year, blocked up in Tiruchinapalla, by a strong party of Sundah Saheb's forces. They proceeded without molestation till the 23d; when coming near Koyl-addi (or Kod-addi) they found an entrenchment thrown up by a strong detachment of French, with a view to intercept them in their march. The two parties cannonaded each other, but without doing any considerable execution; the major, however, continued his march, and the enemy made some attempts to attack him in ambuscade; but his vigilance rendered them abortive. At length he arrived before Tiruchinapalla, which the enemy had abandoned on re-

ceiving intelligence of his approach; and having heard that they were retreating to Pondicherry with all possible dispatch, he detached captain Clive, with four hundred Europeans, a party of Maharatta horse, and Sipoy, to cut off their retreat. Clive dislodged a strong body of the nabob's troops, who had taken post at Sameavarem, a fort and temple situated on the river Kalderon, upon which Sundah Saheb threw himself into the island of Syrinham with an army of thirty thousand men, formed by another part of the river Kalderon. The French at Pondicherry were no sooner acquainted with these transactions, than they sent count D'Anteuil, with a strong detachment, to the assistance of the nabob. He had by this time advanced as far as Utatur, about twenty miles north from Siranham. Before Mr. Clive invested the ecclesiastical fortress of Sundah Saheb, he went to Utatur to give the French battle, whose officer, on his approach, thought fit to retire; upon which the English gentleman returned, and, though much fatigued, immediately invested one of the temples into which the nabob had thrown part of his forces. The commanding officer and several others, attempting to force their way out at a gate, were killed, and the rest surrendered, to the amount of sixty-six Europeans, and a great number of Sipoy. Then he proceeded to another temple, much stronger than the first.

Against

Against this he was obliged to carry on his operations by regular approaches, which soon reduced the enemy to hang out a white flag of capitulation, just when Mr. Clive was beginning to advance in order to storm the breach he had made. The Sipoy, ignorant of the meaning of the flag, and mounting the breach, pushed on the attack, which so terrified the garrison, that twenty-four French threw themselves into the river, and all perished there but four; an accident which Mr. Clive would have prevented, had he been able. The remainder, in all seventy-two, and three officers, were made prisoners. These officers made loud complaints that no regard had been shewn to their flag of capitulation, yet, certain it is, that the clemency of Mr. Clive alone saved them from being all cut to pieces, during the heat of action. To this imputation monsieur Duplueux added another, of the contempt with which Mr. Clive had treated the French in general; this may be very justly attributed to the effects of mortified ambition, since it was disproved by the very prisoners themselves.

After the reduction of this place, Mr. Clive began his march for Golconda, whither he was told D'Anteuil had retreated. He arrived there about noon, on the thirty-first day of May, 1752, after a march of a day and a half. D'Anteuil, with great precaution, had chosen an advantageous situation, and intrenched himself for the greater security. Some Maharatta horse immediately attacked the town of Golconda,

conda, and drove the French out in confusion, obliging them to abandon their cannon : Mr. Clive, in the mean time, attacked the intrenchments, and made a terrible slaughter ; but, being unwilling to destroy them all, sent a flag of truce out, on which a capitulation was agreed upon, and D'Anteuil, with three other officers, were made prisoners, on parole, for one year ; the troops also were prisoners till exchanged, and the money and stores were delivered to the nabob, whom the English supported.

During these transactions, major Lawrence marched at the head of the forces at Tiruchinapalla, assisted by a good body of men from the nabob of Tanjour, who had espoused the cause of Mahommed Ali Khan, to Syrinham. The place was so effectually blockaded, that in a very short time Sundah Saheb's provisions were exhausted, and his troops reduced to the last extremity for a supply. In this emergency, he found means to corrupt Mona Ji, general of the Tanjourines, to connive at his escape ; however, he was no sooner in Mona Ji's power than that officer secured him ; on which the nabob of Tanjour ordered his head to be struck off, and exposed in the camp. This happened on the same day that Mr. Clive took Golconda. On the third day of June monsieur Law, who commanded the forces in Syrinham, surrendered himself, his troops, and allies, prisoners of war. In the place

place were found forty pieces of battering cannon, ten mortars, and other warlike stores.

Such a chain of successes established Mahomed Ali Khan in his government of Arcot, and obliged monsieur Duplieux to recal his regulars from the Indian army, and stand upon the defensive. Since his projects had all been baffled, he resolved to sue for peace, to which the nabob of Arcot shewed himself inclinable, provided it was to the satisfaction of the English, his allies. Peace, however, did not take place, but a cessation of arms ensued. When advice of all these transactions had been remitted to France, the company in that kingdom were so discouraged by so many disasters, that, in 1753, they sent monsieur Duvelar as their commissary to the East-Indies, to restore peace. The English and French concluded a convention, whereby it was stipulated, that the two companies should reciprocally restore the territories taken by their troops since 1748; except certain districts, which the English retained for the conveniency of their traffic; that the nabobs advanced by the influence of either, should be acknowledged by both; and that for the future neither should interfere in any disputes which might arise among the princes of the country.

Major Lawrence having the sole command of the troops, Mr. Clive was at liberty to return to England, for which he made preparations. The natives of the country could scarce endure the thoughts of his parting from them.

They

They considered themselves as indebted to him for the preservation of their territories and effects. They looked upon him as a father, while his heroic actions, skill, and modesty incited them to almost deify him. The great Mogul solicited him to enter into his service, who would have granted him any thing to comply with his request. Not all their intreaties could make him sacrifice the love he bore to his country, for which he set sail in a very short time, and arrived on the tenth day of November, 1753, at Plymouth. Thence he proceeded to London, and having waited on the directors of the East-India company, with an account of his transactions, was presented, by the gentleman in the chair, with a very rich sword set with diamonds; for which he politely returned his thanks, and assured the company of his future service whenever they required it. Six months after the departure of Mr. Clive, hostilities were recommenced on the coast of Coromandel, between the English and French; who, from auxiliaries, seem now to have become principals. Major Lawrence, though far from being popular in that country, because of his pride and austerity, was an officer of experience, resolution, and conduct. He gained several advantages over the enemy, particularly one in September, 1753, near Tiruchinapalla, where he was encamped when the enemy offered him battle, which he accepted, and gave them a total defeat in a short time, with very little loss on his own side;

side; while that of the enemy amounted to at least six hundred men, killed, wounded, and prisoners; together with ten pieces of cannon, which fell into his hands. Soon after this another skirmish happened, which did not end to the advantage of the major. When the news of these transactions reached England, the East India company thought proper to request Mr. Clive's service again in that distant country; for which, in 1754, he set sail, in quality of governor of Fort St David.

Major Lawrence, however, repaired the little damage he had suffered, and proceeded to act with the utmost vigour, obtaining divers advantages over the enemy, which, in all probability, would have terminated the war according to his own wish; for a negociation was on the carpet, when it was interrupted by the unhappy affair at Calcutta, which there is all the reason in the world to suppose the French favoured.

Calcutta, the principal English settlement in the kingdom of Bengal, is situated on one of those channels which compose the several mouths of the Ganges, and at a very considerable distance from the late scene of action; consequently the castle, which is called Fort William, was not supplied with provision to withstand a siege. Sazajud Douza, nabob of Bengal, took umbrage at the refusal of certain duties by the English at Calcutta, to which he laid a claim; but particularly irritated against Mr. Drake, the governor, for granting protection to one of his subjects; to which may be undoubtedly added every art of the

French to make the breach wider *. The nabob assembled his numerous army, and began his march for Calcutta. The commanding officer, terrified by the numbers of the enemy, and considering the place was not in a proper posture of defence, immediately, with the principal inhabitants, abandoned it, taking refuge on board the ships in the river, and carrying along with them their most valuable effects, and the company's books. Thus deserted, Mr. Holwell, with a few gallant friends, and the remains of a feeble garrison, bravely defended the fort to the last extremity: but it was insufficient to protect an untenable place, or to affect an ungenerous enemy. The fort was taken on the twentieth day of June, 1756, and the whole garrison, consisting of 146 persons, being made prisoners, were thrust into a dungeon, called the Black-hole, from whence Mr. Holwell, with twenty-one others, came out alive, to paint a scene of the most cruel distress, which perhaps human nature ever suffered or survived.

When he came to England, in the year 1757, he published, in a letter, an account of this shocking barbarity, in terms so pathetic and moving as cannot fail drawing pity from the most obdurate and savage breast. " Figure to yourself, " says he, if possible, the situation of one hundred and forty-six wretches, exhausted by " continual fatigue and action, thus crammed " together, in a cube of eighteen feet, in a close

* Knowing him to be avaritious, they told him there was a considerable treasure lodged in Calcutta, by the mastering of which he would obtain.

“ sultry night, in Bengal ; shut up to the east-
 “ ward and southward, the only quarters from
 “ whence air could come to us, by dead walls,
 “ and a door open only to the westward by two
 “ windows strongly barred within ; from whence
 “ we could receive scarce any the least circula-
 “ tion of fresh air.”

“ Such was the residence of those unhappy vic-
 tims for the space of twelve hours. When they
 had been in but a little while, a profuse sweat
 broke out on every individual ; and this was at-
 tended with an insatiable thirst, which became
 the more intolerable as the body was drained of
 its moisture. In vain these miserable objects
 stripped themselves of their cloaths, squatted down
 on their hams, and fanned the air with their
 hats, to produce a refreshing undulation. Many
 were unable to rise again from this posture, but
 falling down, were trod to death, or suffocated.
 The dreadful symptom of thirst was now accompa-
 nied with a difficulty of respiration, and every
 individual gasped for breath. Their despair be-
 came outrageous. The cry of *water ! water !*
 issued from every mouth ; even the jemmadaar
 (serjeant of the Indian guard) was moved to
 compassion at their distress. He ordered his sol-
 diers to bring some skins of water, which served
 only to enrage their appetite and increase the ge-
 neral agitation. There was no other way of con-
 veying it through the windows but by hats, and
 this was rendered ineffectual, by the eagerness
 and transports of the wretched prisoners ; who,
 at sight of it, struggled and raved even into fits

of delirium. In consequence of these contests, very little reached those that stood nearest the windows ; while the rest, at the farther end of the prison, were totally excluded from all relief, and continued calling on their friends for assistance ; and conjuring them by all the tender ties of pity and affection. To those who were indulged it proved pernicious ; for, instead of allaying their thirst, it enraged their impatience for more. The confusion became general and horrid, all was clamour and contest ; those who were at a distance endeavoured to force their passage to the windows, and the weak were pressed down to the ground, never to rise again. The inhuman ruffians without derived entertainment from their misery ; they supplied the prisoners with more water, and held up lights to the bars, that they might enjoy the inhuman pleasure of seeing them fight for the baneful indulgence. The miserable prisoners perceiving that water rather aggravated than relieved their distress, grew clamorous for air ; they insulted the guard, in order to provoke them to fire upon them ; and loaded the suba (nabob of Bengal) with the most virulent reproach ; from railing they had recourse to prayers, beseeching Heaven to put an end to their misery."

" They now began to drop on all hands : but a steam arose from the living and the dead as pungent and volatile as spirit of hartshorn ; so that all who could not approach the window were suffocated. Mr. Holwell, being weary of life, retired, as he had done once before, from the window,

dow, and went and stretched himself by the reverend Mr. Jervas Bellamy, who, together with his son, a lieutenant, lay dead in each others embrace. In this situation he was soon deprived of sense, and lay, to all appearance, dead, till day broke, when his body was discovered and removed by his surviving friends to one of the windows, where the fresh air revived him, and he was restored to his sight and senses."

"In the morning they were released from prison, and after suffering innumerable other hardships *, obtained their discharge, and proceeded to the Dutch settlement, where they were received with tenderness and humanity."

By this unhappy stroke the English East-India company's affairs, from the height of prosperity, fell into the utmost confusion. They represented to the government the necessity of sending thither a squadron of his majesty's ships; which in the course of this year arrived at Fort St. David, under the command of the gallant admiral Watson. The governor (Mr. Clive) and the admiral, immediately began to consult of measures to be taken for the general good. The ships were

			Guns
The Kent	of		70
— Cumberland			66
— Tyger	—		60
— Salisbury	—		50
— Bridgewater			24

With sloops and bombketches.

* For a detail of which the reader is referred to the letter before-mentioned.

In consequence of their deliberations, it was resolved to attack Tulagee Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, and annihilate his power, which was formidable to all the trading ships in Europe, because he was on the eve of concluding a treaty with the nation of the Maharattas, which might prove prejudicial to the interest of the English. Admiral Watson sailed from the coast of Coromandel to Bombay, where his squadron was cleaned and refitted; and having procured proper intelligence with respect to the harbour and fort of Geriah, Angria's capital, he proceeded thither. In his passage, he was joined by a division of ships fitted out by the company, having on board colonel Clive, with a party of the company's troops. On the admiral's arrival before the harbour, he summoned the town to surrender; but no regard being paid to his menaces, he stood in in two divisions; the enemy firing all the while with great vigour from their batteries. As soon as the ships were properly disposed, they began so warm a fire as soon silenced the batteries, and gave the admiral an opportunity of landing the troops. The enemy, now invested on all hands, were plied so closely, that on the thirteenth day of February, 1756, they hung out a flag of capitulation; but the admiral, not chusing to grant their terms, began his attack with such vigour, that they were soon forced to call out for mercy, and submit at discretion. Among the prisoners were, the brother, the wife, mother, and children of Angria; together with his general Rhamagee Punt, commander

mander in chief of his grabs or fleet. When Mr. Watson entered the apartment of Angria's family, they fell with their faces to the ground, agreeable to the custom of the East, and shed floods of tears. He having raised them from the ground, the mother of Angria told him in a piteous tone, "The people had no king, she no son, her daughter no husband, their children no father." He answered, "They must look upon him as their father and their friend." The youngest boy, about six years old, immediately seized him by the hand, and sobbing, exclaimed, "Then you shall be my father." The admiral was so affected with this pathetic address that the tears trickled down his cheeks; while he assured them they might depend upon his protection and friendship. In the place the English found two hundred pieces of cannon, six brass mortars, and a large supply of stores and ammunition, with money and effects, amounting to 130,000 l. Angria's fleet, consisting of eight large grabs, one ship in the harbour, and two upon the stocks, together with a number of small vessels, called gallivats, were all destroyed. By this exploit the spirits of the company were somewhat restored, and fresh vigour given to their actions, which had been drooping since the loss of Calcutta.

Three hundred European soldiers, and as many Sipoy, were left to guard the fort, and four of the company's armed vessels remained in the harbour, for the defence of the place, which was extremely well situated for commerce.

The

The admiral and Mr. Clive sailed back to Madraſs in triumph, and there another plan was formed for reſtoring the company's affairs on the Ganges, recovering Calcutta, and taking vengeance on the cruel nabob of Bengal. In October following, the admiral taking on board Mr. Clive and the company's troops, ſailed for Bengal, with the Kent, Tyger, Bridgewater, Salisbury, and King's Fiſher ſloop; and by the united endeavours of thoſe two brave officers ſoon changed the face of the company's affairs. On the fifth day of December he anchored in Balasore road, in the kingdom of Bengal; and having croſſed the Braces on the eighth, proceeded up the Ganges, and arrived at Falta on the fifteenth; where he found governor Drake and thoſe who had eſcaped from Calcutta before it was inveſted, on board the company's ſhips, in a very deplorable condition. After affording them all poſſible relief, and ſtrengthening the land forces with all the recruits they could draw together, colonel Clive was diſembarked with his forces, to attack the fort of Buſbudgia by land, while the admiral battered it by ſea. But the place being ill provided with cannon, did not hold out above an hour after the firing began. This conqueſt being atchieved at a very eaſy purchaſe, two of the ſhips anchored between Tannaſort and a battery oppoſite to it, on the firſt day of January, 1757; both of which were abandoned before one ſhot was diſcharged againſt either. Thus the paſſage was laid open to Calcutta, the reduction
of

of which the next operation of these vigilant officers.

They resolved to lose no time in attacking it, and accordingly proceeded up the river, leaving the Salisbury as a guard-ship, to prevent the enemy's regaining the places which had been taken. In the night several armed boats were sent before the Squadron to burn a ship and some vessels said to be filled with combustibles, an enterprize that happily succeeded, as all the former had done; and next morning Mr. Clive landed with his troops, and began his march towards Calcutta. Animated with revenge at the affecting sight of a place, the scene of the deplorable sufferings of so many of their brave countrymen, the ships and land forces attacked it with such spirit and undaunted resolution, that the Indians, unable to maintain their ground, surrendered the fort the same day it was approached. The ships had scarce suffered any thing in their hulls or rigging; nine seamen only were killed, and twenty-one wounded; and the loss was still less among the land forces, where not an officer was either killed or hurt. Four mortars, ninety-one guns of different sizes, and a considerable quantity of all kinds of ammunition, were found in the fort.

A few days after, Hugly, situated higher up the Ganges, was reduced with as little difficulty and loss, except the death of captain Dugall Campbell, an officer in the service of the company, very much respected. In Hugly the English found twenty pieces of cannon, from twenty-four pounders downwards, with a quantity of

ammunition. The city was soon after burned, together with the granaries and storehouses, which greatly distressed the nabob and facilitated the farther designs of Mr. Clive.

The nabob, who saw that the torrent of the English valour could not be resisted by such feeble dams as forts defended by Indians, drew down a whole army, consisting of ten thousand horse, and fifteen thousand foot, to drive them from their conquests. Infinitely inferior as Mr. Clive was in number, he did not hesitate to attack the nabob's army. On the second day of February, the enemy were seen marching towards the town within a mile of the English camp; upon which Mr. Clive sent for a reinforcement to the admiral. Accordingly captain Warwick received orders from the admiral to take upon him the command of a detachment of five hundred and sixty-nine seamen, and immediately proceed to the camp. At two o'clock the same day he joined Mr. Clive, and found him ready to march, the men being all under arms. The king's troops and company's grenadiers were in the front; captain Warwick, with his seamen, were ordered to take charge of the artillery, and the Sipoy were in the rear. At three Mr. Clive altered his disposition by strengthening his front, in which order he came up with the nabob, and was soon charged in the van by the enemy's horse. Before the rear got up to the nabob's camp, the engagement became general from hedges and bushes; upon which Mr. Clive ordered the artillery to be pointed against the thickest of the enemy's fire, and

and with a success that proved the wisdom of this measure. The nabob was soon dislodged and driven before the victorious English, a great slaughter was made, but not a complete victory obtained. The consequences, however, were nearly to that effect; for on the ninth day of February the nabob was fain to conclude a treaty of peace, by which the English East-India company was re-established in all its ancient privileges, an immunity for all taxes was granted, and restitution promised for all that the trade had suffered in the taking of Calcutta.

Such is the substance of the terms obtained for the company by the vigorous and gallant measures of those two brave officers, who conducted every thing with an harmony and unanimity that shewed their minds conjugal, ambitious of glory, and zealous in the cause, and for the honour of their country.

By this time the news of war being declared by England and France against each other had reached India; therefore the British heroes resolved next to turn their arms against the French; and as soon as all obstruction on the side of the Indians was removed, and the company's officers had taken possession of their ancient establishments, it was resolved to attack the fort of Chandanagore, the principal settlement of the French in Bengal, situated on the Ganges, a little higher than Calcutta; it is a regular fortification, and was at this time defended by a numerous garrison, consisting of five hundred Europeans and seven hundred Indians; one hundred and eighty-

three pieces of cannon, many of them twenty-four pounders; three mortars, and a sufficient quantity of stores and ammunition. In this expedition colonel Clive commanded seven hundred Europeans and sixteen hundred Sipoy, or black soldiers. The admirals, Watson and Pocock, commanded the fleet, if it may be called a fleet, which consisted of no more than three ships of the line and a sloop. Mr. Clive made himself master of all the out-posts before the admirals arrival, except one redoubt, situated between the fort and the river, which mounted eight pieces of cannon of twenty-four pounders, four of which pointed to the river. Admiral Watson having ordered the sloop up the river to cover the boats attending on the camp, followed with the rest of the squadron with all expedition possible. On the eighteenth day of March, 1757, he anchored about two miles below Chandanagore, and found the French had done every thing in their power to obstruct his passage, by sinking two ships, a ketch, a hulk, a snow, and a vessel without masts, all directly in the channel, within gun-shot of the fort; and that they had laid two booms moored with chains across the river. This occasioned some delay, the admiral being forced to cut down the booms and sound the channel before he advanced. On the twenty-fourth he overcame all those obstructions, and the leading ship having got abreast of the redoubt, soon silenced it, and obliged the garrison to abandon it. The squadron began to play upon the walls, which was returned with great spirit for the space
of

of three hours, while Mr. Clive was making his approaches, and firing from a battery on the other side. At nine in the evening the enemy hoisted a white flag, and it was agreed that the fort should be surrendered, the garrison made prisoners of war, the Indian inhabitants preserved in the full use of their liberties, and the jesuits director, counsellors, and inferior servants of the company, to be dismissed, with the church ornaments. The goods and money found in the fort were considerable; but the chief advantage consisted in having deprived the French of their principal settlement on the Ganges. Four forts cost these gallant officers only four days to reduce them.

The judicious timing of these several operations, as well as those which followed, was not less laudable than the brave spirit with which they were executed. Before the French were alarmed, care was taken to repossess all the posts we formerly held; to humble the nabob by some effectual blow; and, by a treaty, to tie up his hands from acting against us. This prince had shewed himself, from the moment of signing that treaty, very little inclined to abide by the stipulations he then made. He indeed promised abundantly, but always deferred the performance upon such frivolous pretences as evidently demonstrated his ill intentions. The English commanders understood this proceeding perfectly well; but they resolved to dissemble their sense of it, until they had broken the French power in this province, which they had greater reason to dread, small as
it

it was, than all the armies of the nabob. When they had fully accomplished this, by the taking of Chandénagore; they deliberated whether they ought not to recommence hostilities with the Indians. A resolution in the affirmative had been attended with great difficulty and danger; if a most fortunate incident had not helped to ensure success.

The nabob's delaying the final execution of the peace was in effect the same to the commerce of the province as if none had been concluded. The leading men in his court and army knew his faithless disposition; they were oppressed and discontented. He had shewn to his own subjects the same haughty and perfidious spirit which had lately broke out with such violence against the English company, and still continued to distress it. Some of his chiefs, therefore, perceiving no probability of a solid peace in the country, while Salajud Dowla held the reigns of government, began first to murmur, and soon after to form a plan for deposing him. Jaffier Ali Cawn, or Khan, one of his principal ministers and generals, a man of great weight and power in the province, was at the head of this conspiracy. He first communicated his design to Mr. Watts, the second in council at Calcutta, by whose letters of the 26th and 28th of April, 1757, the council was informed of the affair. Here it was debated with all the attention and circumspection possible, it being a matter of the utmost consequence, as upon its success depended the fate of the whole commerce of Bengal.

The

The nabob's equivocal conduct, his breach of the articles of peace he had solemnly sworn to maintain, his refusing to admit a garrison into Cassembuzar, and his prohibiting a pound of powder or ball to pass up the river, together with the certain intelligence the council received of his having invited M. Bussey, the French commandant in Golconda, to join him with all the troops he could bring, sufficiently evinced that the nabob's intention was to begin hostilities as soon as his designs were ripe for execution. It was therefore determined to enter upon the project concerted by Jaffier Ali Cawn, to assist it by the most vigorous measures, and thereby settle the company's affairs upon a solid and lasting foundation. The council knew the capacity of Mr. Clive, and had all the reason in the world to confide in the conduct of an officer who had given such repeated proofs of his valour. He was ordered to take the field, the admiral undertaking to garrison Chandenagore with his seamen; thereby to strengthen Mr. Clive's little army, by reinforcing him with the former garrison. A detachment of fifty seamen, with their officers, was likewise added to serve as gunners, and a twenty gun ship stationed above Hugly, to preserve a communication between the army and the fleet.

On the 19th day of June, 1757, Catwa fort and town, situated on that side the river which forms the island of Cassembuzar, were taken by a party detached for that purpose. There the army halted for two days, expecting intelligence from

from Jaffier Ali Cawn; but none arriving, Mr. Clive put his troops in motion on the 22d, crossed the river, and next day, with his own forces only, gave battle to the nabob, who was entrenched on the east side. All the forenoon was spent in making motions, reconnoitering, &c. About twelve it rained very hard for near half an hour, at the end of which major Kirkpatrick, with some grenadiers, and two pieces of cannon, attacked the right of the entrenchments, where were fifty French, and in a short time forced them. The colonel then marched his army out of a grove, where they had been concealed, to avoid being unnecessarily exposed to the enemy's cannon, and presently drove the enemy from off a rising ground, and planted his guns thereon, which did such execution, that in a short time the numerous host of the nabob were fain to retreat in the utmost precipitation, leaving at least 500 slain on the field of battle, and as many wounded, with 50 pieces of cannon, and all the nabob's baggage; while the loss of the victors did not reach one hundred. Their numbers in the morning were very unequal; the nabob's army, according to Montoll, his prime minister, amounted to about 35,000 men; Mr. Clive's scarce exceeded 1200, one third of which were Europeans.

It is probable indeed that victory would have been disputed with more obstinacy, had not the nabob been discouraged with the treachery of his officers, and the cowardice of his troops, who were seized with a panic as soon as they had discovered

discovered the conspiracy that was set on foot. After the battle he withdrew privately, not having sufficient confidence in the fidelity of his troops. Jaffier Ali Cawn now declaring himself openly, entered Muxadavad, the capital of the province, with an army of his friends and victorious allies. It had been previously concerted, that Ali Cawn, who was born of a good family, and greatly esteemed in the province, should succeed to the nabobship; accordingly he was invested on the 28th day of June, by Mr. Clive, with all the badges of authority, and received the homage of every degree of men, as suba of the provinces of Bengal, Baher, and Arifa. On the 30th the deposed nabob was made prisoner, just as Mr. Law, the French chief at Cassembuzar, was ready to join him with 200 Europeans; and on the 4th day of July he was put to death in his prison by his successor.

In about thirteen days this great revolution was accomplished; and with less force and trouble than often is required to take a petty village in Germany, was transferred the government of a vast kingdom, yielding in its dimensions to few in Europe, but to none in the fertility of its soil, the number of its inhabitants, and the richness of its commerce.

By the alliance with the new nabob, and by the reduction of Chandénagore, the French were entirely driven out of Bengal, and all its dependencies. This was one of the articles of the treaty. By the other articles, a perpetual alliance, offensive and defensive, was made between the

F parties.

parties. The territories of the company were enlarged, and upwards of two millions sterling was stipulated to be paid as an indemnification to the company, and the unhappy sufferers in the taking of Calcutta. The new nabob, full of gratitude to those to whom he owed his dignity, gave, besides the above large sums, about 600,000 pounds to the ships officers and crews.

The joy which the news of these glorious transactions occasioned in England was not a little damped by the account of the death of admiral Watson, who fell a sacrifice to the unwholsomeness of the climate; in which he had established the reputation of a diligent, faithful, and brave officer, and a good man. He was buried on the 17th day of August, his corpse being attended to the grave by all his own officers, who lamented him as a father; and the inhabitants of the place, who have erected an handsome monument to his memory. Besides this real loss, Vizagapatam was besieged, and soon taken by the French, and a garrison of 130 Europeans and 200 Sipoy, notwithstanding the governor made all the defence which became a faithful servant of the company, but unskilled in the art of war.

And now fortune began to change the scene. The French had received repeated advices of the danger to which their affairs in the East-Indies were exposed, and therefore determined to make a vigorous effort to retrieve them. M. de Lally was sent to Pondicherry with 8000 Europeans, on board five ships of war, commanded by M. D'Ache; as the troops suffered considerably in
their

their passage, it was necessary to give them some refreshment on their arrival; which, taking up time, retarded the commencement of their operations. At length Lally resolved to attack Fort St. David *, and the fleet sailed away to cover the siege from any attempt of the English to incommode it; and Lally himself, at the head of his army, appeared before the place by the latter end of April, 1758, when admiral Pococke, who had been reinforced by commodore Stevens from Europe, having received advice of their intentions, appeared also before Fort St. David. The hostile squadrons prepared for an engagement, but that of the French being superior, the captains, Brereton, Vincent, and Legge, did not chuse to fight; therefore the admiral, with only four ships, was obliged to sustain the fire of nine ships of the enemy; the fight began at three in the afternoon, and lasted till night, without any apparent advantage being gained on either side; the French retreated to Pondicherry, and the English, being so much damaged, were not fit to pursue, but returned to Madras to refit; which M. Lally being informed of, resolved to begin his attack. He found only some blacks in the outworks, though there were in the fort itself about 500 Europeans. These blacks ran into the fort on the first appearance of an attack from the French. M. de Lally judging from this that

* Colonel Clive, who was appointed governor of this fortress, as before-mentioned, was now in the kingdom of Bengal, a distance of at least 1200 miles, re-instating the affairs of the company, where again we shall hear of him in a distinguished capacity in the late misunderstanding with the Dutch.

no vigorous resistance would be made, did not give his people the trouble of making regular approaches, but ordered the place to be bombarded; this produced the desired effect, for the inhabitants receiving considerable damage, resolved on the second day of June to open the gates, and admit the victor, submitting to what terms he thought proper. From hence Lally proposed to have marched to Madras, but was dissuaded by M. de Buffey, whom he had sent for from Golkonda. Buffey was of opinion that he ought first to attack all the remote posts of the English, and Madras would fall in consequence; upon which it was resolved to attack Tiruchinapalli, where the English had a garrison of 400 Europeans.

But the ill star of France, which in no part of the world sets well on their affairs, began now again to influence them here. An extreme want of money delayed his operations. A prince of the country (the king of Tanjour) appeared the only resource which was open. To this prince he applied for a considerable sum of money, which was resolutely refused; which so exasperated Lally that he carried the war into his dominions, and laid siege to his capital, and in fifty hours had made a practicable breach; but after lying before it several days, the skill of some English engineers, the want of provisions and ammunition, and the disorders which reigned in his army, obliged him to raise the siege, and return without the money, with the additional mortification of having his rear-guard defeated by the Tanjourine cavalry, whom he had despised;
and

and being beaten from a place only fortified after the Indian manner.

By this time admiral Pococke had refitted his ships, and set sail in quest of M. D'Ache, whom on the 27th day of July, 1758, he espied at an anchor off Pondicherry, but next morning the Frenchman got under sail, and bore away to the southward. Pococke gave chase, and endeavoured to weather them, as the likeliest means to bring them to an action, which however he was not able to accomplish till the third day of August, when, taking the advantage of the sea-breeze, he got the weather-gage, and brought on the engagement about one o'clock. In about ten minutes D'Ache set his foresail, and bore away, his squadron, following his example, and so made a running fight in a very irregular line till three o'clock; when the English admiral made the signal for a general chase, upon which the French cut away their boats and crowded all the sail they could. Pococke pursued them till dark, when they put out their lights, and he could no longer distinguish them; however they got safe into Pondicherry road, having lost, as is supposed, near 400 men. The English squadron came to an anchor the same evening off Cancall, a French settlement, thirty leagues south from Pondicherry, having lost about 100 men.

As the English at Madras had reason to expect an attack from the French, they determined to provide for a defence. In September the company's ship Pitt, arrived there with colonel Draper and a detachment of his regiment, the
gar-

garrison of Tiruchinapalli (all but forty men under the command of captain Smith) came to Madras for its better security; and major Ford marched from Calcutta to Golkonda with a detachment for the same purpose. Lally had occasioned these preparations by his boasts that he would drive the English from off the coast of Coromandel. But still he was in want of money, without which he found himself unable to do any thing; therefore he seized a large Dutch ship, bound from Batavia to Negapatam, as it is thought, much with its consent, which contained a large treasure. Thus provided, he set out for Madras, and on the 14th day of December, 1758, arrived before that place*. Governor Pigot had made every preparation for a vigorous defence, and colonel Draper and major Brereton, who commanded the garrison, were determined to die like men of honour. The same day colonel Draper made a sally, and attacked the French regiment of Lorraine with such intrepidity as to give it an entire defeat, notwithstanding its bravest efforts; and had he been as well supported by those who were ordered, he had done the enemy more considerable damage; but Lally coming to the scene of action with a fresh and superior body, obliged him to retreat with the loss of 150 men, though the French-

* In the course of this month major Ford attacked, at Golkonda, a party of French and Indians, supposed to be going to Madras; killed thirty Europeans, and made 130 prisoners; took twenty pieces of cannon, and all their baggage, with very little loss on his own side, and in consequence made himself master of Mussulpatam.

men owned, he (Draper) had killed or wounded 400 of his men. Lally finding the place was not to be taken by escalade, began to raise batteries, and resolved to make a regular siege. This work continued till the 6th day of January, 1759, when they were opened, and continued firing shot and shells till the 26th; but without doing any material damage. On the 31st they made another vigorous effort with their batteries, but in three or four hours the superior fire of the fort obliged them to close their embrasures. The French, in this siege, shewed so much ill conduct that they very deservedly became an object of ridicule. Their engineers were without knowledge, and their miners without resolution; for when they advanced by sap along the sea-side, in order to blow up the north-east angle of the covered way, they sprung it so injudiciously, that they could make no advantage of it. Major Caillaud, who commanded the troops from Tiruchinapalli, kept at the back of the enemy's camp, and so incommoded them, that very often they were obliged to send large detachments in order to keep off that inconvenience, which brought on another perhaps greater still; for the army being thus weakened could not act with the same force against the town. Such was the situation of the poor French, when, on the 16th day of February, the Queenborough man of war, with the company's ship Revenge, having on board the remainder of colonel Draper's regiment, consisting of 600 men, arrived in the road, and presently disembarked part of the troops. Lally
con-

continued his firing till evening, but in the night he raised the siege and made a preceptitate retreat, leaving behind seventy pieces of cannon; but thirty-three of them had been rendered useless by the fire of the garrison. He left Madrafs in the greatest transports of rage and despair, which a man of honour and ability in his profession can feel, who is ill seconded by his troops, neglected by those who ought to support him, and cheated by the villainy of contractors, and of all those who turn war into a low traffic. His letter to the governor of Pondicherry two days before he left Madrafs, which was intercepted, and has been published in all the public papers, is a strong and striking picture of these agitations. The following little accurate list contains every thing else that is necessary to say of the siege of Madrafs.

B E S I E G E D.

In the fort.

1400 Europeans,
2100 Sipoyes.

In the field.

150 Europeans,
6000 Blacks, foot and horse.

19 cannon,

16 mortars,

2 howbickers,

7 cannon.

15 cannon,

2 mortars.

} Front fire.

} Rear fire.

} Flank fire.

8000 shells thrown into the trenches.
 19000 round-shot,
 11000 grape-shot,
 19000 barrels of powder.

About 500 Europeans, killed and wounded.—
 Sipoy unknown.

B E S I E G E R S.

3500 Europeans,
 2000 Black horse,
 5000 Black foot,
 67 days before the place,
 43 open trenches,
 23 possession of the covered way,
 18 a battery on the breast of the glacis.
 6 thirteen jack mortars,
 2 howbickers, } daily fire.
 24 cannon.
 200 European officers, } killed and wounded.
 1500 private men,
 Sipoy unknown.

Whilst the French were thus dispirited, the English went on from success to success. In February 1759, it had been concerted, at Bombay, to make an attack on Surat, a large opulent city, situated on the western coast of the great peninsula of India, at this time governed by a set of men, who, though they stiled themselves princes, were little better than pirates. The command of this enterprize was given to captain Maitland, of the royal regiment of artillery;
 G and

and he, with 850 Europeans and 1500 Sipoy, embarked on board the company's armed ships, and in twelve days came before Surat; the troops being landed made an attack on what may be called the suburbs of the place, and presently drove the defendants away. Two other attacks were then made on what is called the outer town, but neither proved successful. Captain Maitland next proposed a general attack by sea and land, in order to gain possession of the fortifications of the outer town: for this purpose a chain, which defended the entrance of the harbour, was broke by two of the company's ships, commanded by the captains Cleugh and Lindsay, on the first of March, and in the night, they warped up against the fortifications of the place, and began a brisk fire; their operations were vigorously seconded by captain Maitland, and before morning they found themselves in possession of what they so much desired. Next day they made a terrible fire against the fortifications of the inner town, but the enemy were struck with such terror and consternation as not to fire a single gun in return; finding it impossible to defend themselves, they sent the English officer word they would open their gates, which his troops entered with drums beating, and colours flying. The place had been defended by four batteries, and near 5000 men, who were allowed to march out with their effects. As to their loss, it is not exactly known; that of the English did not amount to 200 men, killed and wounded. The expedition commenced on the 9th day of February; and, on the 25th day

day of April, captain Maitland arrived again at Bombay, having gained a considerable booty.

Lally's misfortune before Madras, joined to the extreme want of money and provisions, made him almost hated and despised by his troops, in-
somuch that two or three battalions separated themselves from the army, with their colours flying and drums beating; and encamped at some distance; from whence they sent word, that if their arrears were not paid, they would go and look for a subsistence elsewhere; upon which 60,000 rupees were sent them, and they returned to their duty; but this sum was insufficient to entirely pay them all off*.

A little while after Lally's disappearance, colonel Draper sallied out of Madras, and thinking himself nearly upon an equality with the enemy, took the field against him, and marched towards Konjeveran, whither Lally had retired; but the French did not care to come to an open action, and he did not think it prudent to attack them in the town: therefore major Brereton marched with the army to Wandewash, a country fort in the French interest, and laid siege to it; upon which Lally made a motion for its relief, and major Brereton retired, but immediately took

* It was unfortunate for the French, when they sent general Lally to the East-Indies, they sent with him no money; thus though they had a superiority of 5000 to 700 (Europeans) on the coast of Coromandel, they could not long act with vigour. Soon after their arrival, they took Fort St. David; but in this expedition all their money was spent, and they could act no longer with success, while the English balanced by the sinews of war their great superiority of troops.

possession of Konjeveram, after a dispute of half an hour with 300 black soldiers who were left to defend it. As this was a place of consequence, by commanding the country fifty miles round, Lally resolved to retake it ; but after beleaguering it three weeks, he retired to Wandewash, and put his army into quarters of cantonement.

By this time the French and English fleets were again in quest of each other. The English fleet, consisting of nine sail of the line, sailed from Negapatam to Pondicherry, and in the road of that place, on the 8th day of September, they saw the French fleet, consisting of eleven sail of the line, and two frigates ; the weather being calm, it was two o'clock in the afternoon, on the 10th, before they were near enough to begin action, which raged with great fury for two hours ; during which the Tyger, captain Brereton was disabled, and captain Mechie, of the Newcastle, was slain ; unfortunately the Sunderland and Weymouth were becalmed, so that they had very little, if any, share in the fight ; however, at a little past four the rear of the French squadron gave way, then the center, and lastly the van ; the loss of the English amounted to 306 men killed, and 263 slightly wounded. The whole squadron, in short, were so disabled in their masts, yards, and rigging, as not to be in a condition to give chase, till they had been refitted. The loss of the French was never exactly known, by report, it is said to exceed 500 men killed ; they continued their retreat to the southward, and admiral Pococke, as well as he

was able, followed after, repairing his ships with all possible dispatch. On the 12th he came to Negapatam, and there having finished his repairs, he set sail for the road of Pondicherry, in order to come to another engagement with the French squadron. On the 27th he arrived there, and found monsieur D'Ache at an anchor; who, on the English admiral's appearance, weighed and stood out, under cannon of the fort, till getting into the sea, he sailed so fast, Pococke found it impossible to bring him to another action; therefore, with consent of a council, he set sail for Madras, and was there informed of the French squadron's having taken on board general Lally and two other field officers, and being gone to the islands.

About the latter end of September, major Breton having received a reinforcement of 300 men, marched from Konjeveram to Wandewash; on the 30th, at two o'clock in the morning, he attacked it in three different places; and after an incessant fire of two hours and an half gained possession of it. The French retired to some entrenchments which had been thrown up at a very small distance, from which they could easily annoy the place. At day-light the black soldiers ran away, which induced the French to make an attempt to retake the place. Major Brereton, finding himself uncovered, and seeing 300 European horse advancing to attack him in the rear, besides the entrenchments in front, thought it most prudent to abandon an untenable place, and by eight o'clock in the morning he was out of the

the reach of their guns ; however, he lost upwards of 300 men in this affair *.

On the 18th day of October, 1759, admiral Cornish, with four ships of the line, from Europe, joined admiral Pococke, and soon after the troops set out from Madrafs for Bengal ; brigadier general Bufley, at the head of 4000 men, having threatened to make a diversion in that country.

Thus we have given a faithful narrative, according to the best of our judgment, of every material transaction in the East-Indies, from the beginning of the war to the latter end of September, 1759. We now come to an affair so mysterious in itself, and so differently related by various accounts, we mean the conduct of the Dutch on Bengal river, or the Ganges, that we hope the reader will excuse us if we err ; as none of the accounts from the East of this transaction are either clear or circumstantial.

The principal Dutch settlement in Bengal is at Chinsurra or Chincery, situated on the Ganges, about twenty miles north from Calcutta, on the same side of the river ; here a pretty large trade is carried on in salt-petre, but the English have a much more considerable one at Calcutta, which the Dutch have envied, and finding it impossible to rival them, their avaricious passion carried them to form a design to extirpate the English, that they might then enjoy the whole. There is great reason to believe Bufley was made ac-

* We can learn by no account who commanded the French.

quainted with this design, and that he tampered with the nabob (Jaffier Ali Cawn) whom he found not very averse to his scheme, as will appear in the sequel. The English men of war being at this time all off the coast of Bengal, the Dutch governor of Batavia thought that this was a proper opportunity for putting his design into execution. Happily colonel Clive, who was at Calcutta, suspected, either from the coldness of the nabob, or the underhand preparations of the Dutch, something of the project. In a few days two Dutch ships of thirty-six guns each, full of men, arrived in the river; upon which colonel Clive sent them word he would not suffer them to march their troops to Chinsurra, adding, that he was, from good authority, acquainted with their design; the Dutch commodore wrote him word, that was not his intent, but begged he might have permission to put his men ashore down the river to refresh them, which was granted. Soon after five other Dutch ships arrived in the river, with which reinforcement the Dutch commodore thought himself in a situation to act as he pleased, and return the supposed affront which had been put upon him; he therefore not only ordered the troops on shore to proceed to Chinsurra, but directed every captain in his squadron to seize and destroy every English ship on the river. In consequence of these orders, several small vessels were taken and detained as lawful prizes. About the middle of November, the Calcutta Indiaman, going down the river was stopt, and the captain told, that if he continued his

his course he would be sunk, upon which she returned to Calcutta, and colonel Clive was made acquainted with these transactions, who ordered the duke of Dorset, the Hardwick, and Calcutta Indiamen, to get ready and go down the river, and take, burn, or sink every Dutch ship they could find; the necessary preparations were soon made, and they proceeded to execute their orders. On the 24th day of November, coming pretty near the enemy, they discovered them to be three of 36 guns, three of 29 and one of 19. The duke of Dorset began the engagement, and continued so hot a fire, that she was more than a match for her opponent, who was relieved with assistants, till the Hardwick and Calcutta came a-breast of them, when the engagement became general, which was but of short continuance, for two of the Dutch ships, not liking such warm work, slipped their cables and ran away; another was drove ashore, and the other three struck, having lost at least one third of their crews. The loss of the English is not mentioned in any account that is yet arrived.

In the mean time colonel Clive, hearing that the Dutch troops were proceeding to Chinsurra, ordered major, now colonel, Ford, with 300 Europeans and 1200 Sipoyes, to intercept them on their march, and give them battle. When the major had taken the field we was informed, that a strong detachment, consisting of 150 Europeans and 600 blacks, from the garrison of Chinsurra, were on their march to join the troops that were landed from the ships. The situation
of

of these two Bodies of the enemy soon determined him to attack the detachment first, in order to avoid any inconvenience which might arise from their attempts to coop him up between them. On the 24th day of November, 1759, he had advanced so near to this detachment, that the van of his army was attacked from behind mud walls and houses. This ambuscade work was what the major expected, and therefore he vigorously supported his van, and pushed forward. The action soon became general, but the Dutch could not withstand the quick fire of the English grenadiers and volunteers, who particularly signalized themselves, driving the Dutch before them in the greatest confusion; and, after a short dispute, obliged them to take refuge in the fort of Chinsurra, with so inconsiderable a loss on their own side, as scarce to deserve mentioning, namely, only three men killed, and five wounded; while that of the enemy, it is supposed, must have been pretty large, in proportion to their numbers. The trophies of this victory were two pieces of brass cannon and two iron field-pieces, found on the scene of action, and about forty men made prisoners.

Considerable as this advantage at first appeared, it was no more than an omen or prelude to a greater victory, under the happy auspices of the same gallant officer. As soon as the action was completely over, Mr. Ford turned his arms to give battle to the main body of the Dutch troops. He continued his march thro' a wood, and next morning,

morning at eight o'clock, he found himself entering upon a small plain, and could discern, on the other side, the enemy's advanced guards. He had scarce time to draw up his little army in order of battle, when he perceived the enemy's whole force in full march towards him. It was lucky that the night before he had received his cannon, for in the late action he had none of his own; but the ground being wet and miry, he could only bring up two pieces at a time, which began to play with great briskness from the center: on the right were the grenadiers; and the left was composed of the battalions of fipoys. The enemy continued to advance in the utmost regularity, till they came within fifty yards of the cannon in the center, and almost close to the left wing; then the action all at once became general. At first the enemy attempted to take the cannon, which did them considerable mischief, but in such a wild, tumultuous and confused manner, that it was rendered abortive by the small arms, before it was well began. The rest of the Dutch Troops that were advancing with the same intrepidity, made a halt, stagnated with the slaughter of their countrymen. This was the favourable moment which every general in action looks for to turn the tide of victory; and major Ford had too much sagacity and experience not to see this critical juncture. He vigorously attacked these troops before they had recovered from their surprise, and threw the whole Dutch army into confusion. The action only lasted about fifteen minutes; at the

the end of which time the enemy gave way on all sides, and at last fled from the field of battle with the utmost precipitation. Their numbers before the action were supposed to amount to five hundred and fifty Europeans, and between twelve and thirteen hundred Milaese. Their principal loss was among the Europeans, two-thirds of whom were either killed or taken prisoners; of the latter was monsieur Russel, a Frenchman, their commander in chief. The loss on the side of the victors was trifling; it did not amount to thirty men killed, nor twice that number wounded, except that captain Rider, commander of a company of young gentlemen volunteers, was among the former. He was sincerely regretted, as a man endowed with every social virtue in private life, and every quality that is necessary to form a brave officer.

The prisoners made in this action, and those made in that of the preceding day, as well as those made on the river by the company's ships, were all conducted to Calcutta,* and the principal officers into the presence of Mr. Clive. They could urge no reasons for this procedure, except that they had been sent by the governor of Batavia; and hinted, that there was a commercial jealousy between the subjects of the two nations, and that they came to hold a conference with the nabob of Bengal, but that their design was

* Pity it is that the massacre at Amboyna was not in some measure revenged at this opportunity. But it is an honour to the English nation, that the natives of this country shew lenity to their most barbarous enemies, and time effaces from their memory the most unwarrantable and cruel actions of perfidious friends.

defeated by colonel Ford's attacking and overthrowing their two bodies of troops. These reasons were ambiguous, particularly that of seeking an audience with the nabob, which was altogether a mystery. But let us turn our eyes towards viewing his conduct, and we shall see great room to suspect his infidelity. When it was known that the Dutch commodore in Bengal-river intercepted the Calcutta Indiaman in her passage downwards, and obliged her to return to Calcutta, he affected great surprise, put all his troops in readiness to march at a moment's notice, but never once offered to assist the English, though he could not be unacquainted that two bodies of the enemy's troops were on their march, in order to effect a junction; and he stood an idle spectator, at the head of his numerous army all the while that hostilities were committing, which was sufficient to make the English imagine he proposed declaring for the conqueror. It was so; for no sooner had they gained the last victory, than he sent to colonel Ford to offer him his service; and also to Mr. Clive, with an offer of his whole army to reduce Chinsurra, but such assistance was refused. There is a natural treachery in these people, which is sufficient to account for their being so rarely stedfast in their agreements, and which, doubtless, increased the suspicion of the English, that he held a secret correspondence with the enemy.

Mr. Clive had for some time proposed returning to Europe, and as soon as the affairs of the
king-

kingdom of Bengal were restored to their former tranquility, he embarked with his lady on board the Royal George Indiaman, and after a passage of about four months, and an half arrived in England; where he was most graciously received by his sovereign, and honoured with the thanks of the East-India company for his many and eminent services.

A little while after arrived admiral Pococke from the East-Indies, who was also most graciously received by his majesty, and honoured with the thanks of the company for his services truly meritorious: nor did they forget those of major Lawrence. He likewise received their thanks which were due to his bravery and experience.* The nabob perhaps, in order to atone for his equivocal conduct, sent a present, amounting to seventeen hundred pounds sterling, to the directors of the East-India company, which they unanimously resolved to give to their hospital at Poplar. When Mr. Clive departed from Bengal to return to Europe, the nabob wrote a curious letter (which, for the satisfaction of the reader, we have inserted the translation

* Mr. Clive having, by his intrepidity and success, accumulated an immense fortune, gave a striking proof of that illustrious principle of gratitude which never fails to adorn the mind truly virtuous and noble. He had learned the art of war, or at least some improvements in it, from Mr. Lawrence, which gave him those many signal successes and advantages. His gratitude would not allow him to let such a service pass unnoticed, therefore he prevailed on that experienced officer to accept an annuity of five hundred pounds, as a reward for his military skill.

in the note †) to the directors of the company, expressing his concern at the departure of one to whom he owed so much respect.

† “ The Light of my Eyes, Dearer than Life, THE NABOB ZUB DOO KOOL MULK NASEER O'DOULA SANBACH JUNG BAHADR, is departing into his own country; but his continuance in Bengal was in every respect desirable. It is my continual wish that he may speedily return, for he is called my son, but is far more dear to me than a son; and to be separated from me will prove a most severe affliction to me. If you send him again into these parts soon, and grant me the happiness of seeing him, you will do me a real kindness. It cannot be hoped, that the success which your affairs have been attended with, during his administration, can ever be the same in other hands.

“ This is the state of affairs at present. At this time the director and council of the Dutch company, residing at Chinsurra, with hostile designs, had sent for their troops, with armed vessels, and put themselves in readiness for war directly, in disobedience to my orders. Upon this occasion the Light of my Eyes, aforementioned, taking the most wise measures, dispatched colonel Ford, with the command of his forces, in conjunction with mine, to chastise the rebellious Dutch. And my son, dearer than life, the Nabob Nasirel Mulk Bahadr (whom the Almighty preserve) also marched himself on my part. Both armies joining, attacked the Dutch army; and, by the Grace of the Most Merciful, and the diligence of the Light of my Eyes aforementioned, the Dutch forces, unable to support the conflict, were broken and put to flight, and retreating to their fort at Chinsurra, shut themselves within it. Many of them were slain, and the remnant which escaped the sword, repenting of their folly, submitted to my authority, and entered into a written engagement, that they would never send their forces, or attempt to make war again, but carry on their trade amicably.

“ As the Dutch met with their condign punishment according to my wishes, the colonel, on account of his conduct and bravery, was honoured with the title of Shittaub Jung Achir (in war). For your information this was written. For the rest, may the season of power and prosperity remain for ever with you.”

Notwithstanding the nabob here takes to himself part of the honour of defeating the Dutch by the assistance of his troops, nothing is more certain, than that they were all tame spectators of the action.


Mr.

Mr. Clive, soon after his return to England, retired, like another Cincinnatus, to his shade, in quest of that peace and domestic felicity which the fortune of war had long made him a stranger to. He was received every where by the inhabitants with peculiar marks of extraordinary esteem and respect, who are ever zealous of paying their grateful acknowledgments to the hero adorned with conquest and laurels.

It is said of the famous Nevil earl of Warwick, in the English history, that he was a KING-MAKER; and the same appellation, in effect, is given to Charles the twelfth king of Sweden, by Voltaire: but is it not equally certain, of both the monarch and the nobleman, that in order to accomplish their designs, they waded through Seas of blood, and shutting the gates of mercy on mankind, massacred them in heaps without distinction? yet in the midst of this unnumbered carnage we see them crowned with laurel. But how much more bright and illustrious must that hero appear, who, defying the shafts of malice, flew to the assistance of a prince in distress, and re-instated him on his throne of Arcot; deposed the tyrant of Bengal, and raised a man to the dignity of Nabob, whom he made serviceable to the interests of his country, with scarce his hands embrued in human blood, or distinguishing the seat of war by the horrid scene of desolation!



THE
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
MILITARY TRANSACTIONS
IN THE
E A S T - I N D I E S,
After the DEPARTURE of
COLONEL CLIVE.


 N order to connect our narrative, it is necessary to speak of some transactions in Europe. When the account of the Dutch having committed hostilities arrived in England, it was received with astonishment; many could scarce credit the accounts they read; however, the major part of the nation became in an instant inflamed, and the rest soon caught fire: in short, the general indignation was so rapid in its progress, that it might be compared to a number of trains of gunpowder; all which communicated at one point, to which the match was placed. Indeed the people

people of this kingdom have seen so many proofs of the perfidious conduct of the Dutch, that they had all the reason in the world to exclaim against this outrage, which could not but awaken in them every former reason of complaint. The motives for the massacre at Amboyna, and those for committing this violence, were so similar, that they could not help drawing a comparison, and considering the consequences as the same, had not the latter project been happily defeated.

The ministry were equally surprized, and more at a loss to find out the latent cause for infringing a peace that hath been kept reciprocally almost a century. As it was impossible to dive into the truth of the matter at home, general Yorke, his majesty's minister at the Hague, was ordered to present a memorial to their High Mightinesses of the United Netherlands on this occasion, to the following effect :

“ That their High Mightinesses were already
 “ informed, by the public news-papers, of an
 “ event as surprizing as irregular, in consequence
 “ of the conduct which the Dutch have held
 “ for some time in the East-Indies, and lately
 “ in the river of Bengal, notwithstanding the
 “ regard which the British subjects had on every
 “ occasion shewn for them. That their High
 “ Mightinesses must be greatly astonished to
 “ hear, by this memorial, of that extraordinary
 “ and unexpected event; but that they would
 “ be much more so on reading the piece annexed to it, containing a minute account,
 “ drawn up with the strictest regard to truth,

“ of the irregularity of the behaviour of the
 “ Dutch, at a time when they enjoyed all the
 “ sweets of peace, and all the advantages of an
 “ unmolested trade; at a time, in short, when
 “ his majesty, from his great regard for their High
 “ Mightinesses, carefully avoided giving them
 “ the least umbrage.”

“ That his Britannic majesty was greatly
 “ struck to hear of the monstrous proceedings
 “ of the Dutch in the East Indies, and their
 “ mischievous designs to destroy the settlements
 “ of his subjects there; which they certainly
 “ would have effected, had not his majesty’s vic-
 “ torious arms brought them to reason, though
 “ only three of his ships engaged seven Dutch
 “ ships, and obliged them to conclude an ac-
 “ commodation: That his majesty would wil-
 “ lingly believe, that their High Mightinesses
 “ gave no order for coming to such extremities,
 “ and that the directors of the India company
 “ had no hand therein. That nevertheless he
 “ [General Yorke] was ordered to demand, in
 “ the name of the King his master, signal satis-
 “ faction; that all who should be found to
 “ have had any share in this offence, which ma-
 “ nifestly tended to the destruction of the British
 “ settlements in that country, should be ex-
 “ emplarily punished; and that their High
 “ Mightinesses should moreover give orders, that
 “ the stipulations agreed on, the day after the
 “ action, between the directors of the respective
 “ companies, in consideration of which the
 “ Dutch had their ships restored, after they
 had

“ had acknowledged their faults, and that they
 “ were the aggressors, should be strictly com-
 “ plied with.”

Such a memorial at any other time but the present, when the British arms have acquired such a superiority and reputation in every quarter of the globe, and which give great weight to the demands of the ministry, would have caused the Dutch to have given a less tacit answer than the following, which contains the substance of their reply to general Yorke's memorial.

“ That nothing had as yet come to the know-
 “ ledge of their High Mightinesses of what their
 “ subjects were charged with : That they re-
 “ quested his Britannick Majesty to suspend his
 “ judgment till he should be exactly informed
 “ of the grounds of those disputes : and that
 “ his Majesty should have reason to be satisfied
 “ with the exemplary punishment of all who
 “ should be found to be concerned in that affair.”

Although the States-General affected ignorance, it cannot be doubted but that they were perfectly acquainted with even the most minute transactions, and that it was a concerted project between the directors of the company residing in Asia and those in Europe, to which the French officers in that remote part of the world were no strangers ; for brigadier-general Bussy, at the head of four thousand men, entered the kingdom of Bengal : but either from a misunderstanding among the confederates, or a resistance from the Nabob, in case Bussy was to lend a helping hand, or, as is most probable, the scheme

not being ripe for execution, he retired to the coast of Coromandel, in order to join general Lally.

The Dutch finding their efforts baffled, and the design of their project penetrated into by the sagacity of the English council at Calcutta, were necessitated, in order to procure the release of their countrymen confined at Calcutta, and their ships which were also detained, to sign articles of agreement, which was to the following effect :

That they (the Dutch) should own the respect due to the British flag, restore all the craft taken by their ships in the river of Bengal or elsewhere, make good all damages, whether to the company or individuals, and by owning their fault, give full satisfaction for these illegal proceedings.

The Dutch pretending some fears from the Nabob, demanded that the English should make use of their interest towards his withdrawing his army. [This article seems to be grounded on that well-known politic axiom, that before a scheme is ripe for execution, and after it is defeated, you must *dissemble*, especially if you deal with a potent adversary. The truth is, no sooner were the Dutch defeated, than the Nabob, pretending they were his enemies, and were come with a design to dethrone him, would seek revenge, if they did not make full satisfaction to the English. Perhaps the Nabob was obliged to make use of this pretext, for sake of self-preservation.]

The Dutch, in order to make the English believe they were firmly inclined to peace, demanded,

manded, that the late affair should be mutually and entirely forgot ; that a perfect friendship, fidelity, and correspondence, should be observed between them, while concord subsisted in Europe : That as they had not acted by either declaration of war or commission, their troops and mariners, who were only detained as temporary captives, not as prisoners of war, and therefore not subject to any capitulation, should be released : That their ships should be restored, and their commerce and possessions free and undisturbed. All these were readily granted ; and the articles were signed on the third day of December 1759, on the part of the English by Richard Becher and John Cooke, and on the part of the Dutch by John Bacheracht and J. C. Hift.

The Dutch being re-instated in full possession of their settlements, commerce, and privileges, disbanded all their troops, except one hundred and twenty five Europeans, which they were allowed to keep for the defence of their factories, but to erect no fortifications ; promising never to give umbrage to any whom they had offended. Thus was peace restored to the kingdom of Bengal, in which happy condition we shall leave it, and return to the coast of Coromandel, where lieut. colonel Eyre Coote arrived, to take upon him the command of the troops, in November 1759.

Lally had sent a considerable detachment of his army to the south, which had taken Syringham, and threatened to lay siege to Tiruchinapalli.

palli. During the absence of Lally's army, it was concerted by the council of Madrafs, that Mr. Coote should take the field and reduce Wandewash, and other places that were contiguous.

Accordingly, on the twentyseventh day of November, he invested and besieged Wandewash, and on the thirtieth took it, making the garrison, consisting of five subaltern officers, sixty three private men, and eight hundred sipoys, prisoners of war; and found in the place forty nine pieces of cannon, with a large quantity of ammunition. On the third day of next month, he invested Carangoly, which was obstinately defended by colonel O'Kennely till the tenth, when he offered to surrender, and who was, for his bravery, allowed to march out with the honours of war, each man his arms, and six days provisions, to where they pleased; the sipoys only were disarmed, and turned about their business. The place had been defended by nine guns, one hundred Europeans, and five hundred sipoys.

It had been concerted between the generals Lally and Bussy, that they should join their forces on the coast of Coromandel, and make vigorous efforts towards retrieving the ill state of their affairs. Accordingly, Bussy brought his army from Bengal into the neighbourhood of Arcot, expecting the junction of M. Lally, who had sent a detachment of his troops as far as Chittiput for this purpose, a place situated about fifteen or twenty miles to the southwest from Wandewash, and about forty south from Arcot, and began his march with his main army from the south for Arcot.

Colonel

Colonel Coote, having been made acquainted with these motions, thought it adviseable to march into the neighbourhood of Arcot, and encamped on the north side of the Palaru or milk river, on the south side of which the town of Arcot is situated. He chose this situation as the most convenient for the preservation of Madrafs, and places adjacent; but however prudent it might be in this respect, he exposed himself to an evil which often disconcerts the best laid project. The enemy being joined by three thousand Moharatta horse, Buffey sent them out to attack his convoys, and plunder the country, which they did so effectually, as to reduce the English army to the greatest necessities for provisions.

On the twenty seventh day of December, Lally arrived at Arcot, and, as superior officer, took command of the joint forces, with which, on the tenth day of January 1760, he marched towards Wandewash; while colonel Coote moved along the banks of the river Palaru, to observe his motions. On the twelfth, Mr. Coote received a letter from the commanding officer at Konjeveram, intimating, that five hundred of the enemy's Europeans, and a large body of horse, had entered the town, and that the whole of the enemy's army were encamped at a place called Jangolam, about three miles distance from Konjeveram. This latter place, though weak, was of great consequence to the English; because it served as a barrier to their territory about Madrafs. On this account Mr. Coote determined to prevent, if possible, its falling into the hands of the enemy; and making a forced march, happily arrived

arrived there before day-light next day. Upon this the Enemy quitted the neighbourhood, and moved on towards Wandewash, which, on the fifteenth, Lally invested with his whole army, consisting of two thousand European infantry, four thousand sipoys, two hundred and fifty Europeans, and four thousand Moharatta horse. The place was of infinite consequence to the English, and it depended on Mr. Coote only to relieve it. The troops he had under his command were one thousand seven hundred European foot, two thousand five hundred sipoys, and one hundred European, and one thousand five hundred black horse, with whom he marched towards the place, which was defended only by a garrison of one hundred and twenty Europeans, and six hundred sipoys, commanded by captain Richard Sherlock. Though it was weak in other respects, Lally did not make a breach till the twentieth, which was so small, he did not think it prudent to storm. However the governor informed Mr. Coote, that the enemy had made a breach, and that his assistance was necessary towards the preservation of the place. Next day the colonel advanced within three miles of the town, and reconnoitred the position of the enemy, in order to give them battle, as the only means whereby he could oblige them to raise the siege. He sent major Brereton with the baggage to Carangoly, and ordered him to rejoin the army as soon as possible.

On the twenty-second, at six o'clock, the whole army marched towards the enemy, in the following

following order : the cavalry, commanded by captain Baron de Vasserot, divided into five squadrons, with the Europeans in the centre, supported by six hundred sipoys, composed the advanced guard ; but when the orders were given to form for battle, they fell upon the centre, and making a wheel to the right and left, gave room for the battalions to pass through, and then they drew up as before, forming the second line. The disposition for the line of battle was thus : In the first line, on the right, was Draper's regiment, commanded by major Brereton ; and on the left was Coote's regiment, commanded by major William Gordon ; in the centre were the troops of the India Company, commanded by major Robert Gordon, with ten pieces of artillery placed in the centre, and on the flanks. In this march, the second line was composed of all the grenadiers, and the remainder of the sipoys, with two pieces of cannon on their flanks. The third line, or rear guard, consisted of two hundred black horse, and two hundred sipoys.

About seven o'clock the advanced guard of the English horse, and that of the enemy began to fire on each other ; upon which Mr. Coote advanced with two companies of sipoys, and dislodged the enemy's advanced guard. The enemy's cavalry being still more advanced than their infantry, Mr. Coote ordered all his cavalry to be put in motion ; upon which the enemy's cavalry retired in pretty good order till his cannon began to play upon them, which soon obliged them to retire precipitately.

At nine o'clock, the whole army occupied that advantageous ground from whence the colonel had driven the enemy, which was scarce two miles from their camp, and halted there half an hour, in full view of the enemy. During which time, Mr. Coote advanced pretty near them, in order to view as exactly as possible their situation. Upon finding them strongly posted, and his flanks exposed to their whole cavalry, he made a motion to the right, whereby he gained the advantage of a hill, which covered his right flank, and having some vilages behind, he thereby secured his rear. This judicious step obliged the enemy to alter their disposition, which was no sooner done, than they advanced three quarters of a mile, under cover of a bank, to meet the colonel. During all this time the two armies cannonaded each other, and skirmished with their advanced posts and Moharatta horse. About eleven o'clock the latter disappeared; but the cannonading was more brisk, and the enemy were seen in full march in order of battle; and Mr. Coote, in his turn, put his army in motion, which advanced with great eagerness.

At twelve o'clock the enemy's European cavalry pushed forward with a great deal of resolution, in order to force Coote's regiment on the left, and so come round upon his rear; but he critically ordered up some companies of sipoys, and two pieces of cannon, which taking them in the flank, immediately threw them into disorder; and his cavalry now pursuing, drove them above the distance of a mile, even to the rear of
their

their own army. The two main bodies still continued to advance, and at one o'clock came within the reach of their muskets, when a shot from one of the English regiments striking one of their tumbrels of ammunition, it blew up. Major Brereton at the head of Draper's regiment now received orders to charge the enemy in flank, which he did with admirable bravery, advancing through a heavy fire of musquetry and cannon till he came within pistol shot, when he gave them a general discharge, and then pushed in with his bayonets in such order and resolution as obliged monsieur Buffey to retire to the head of a tank. He gallantly pursued his advantage, bearing down all opposition, notwithstanding the efforts of a prodigious superiority. Mr. Coote seeing him likely to suffer, wisely ordered the grenadiers with two pieces of cannon to support their own regiment, which was so effectually done as to throw the enemy's left wing upon their centre. Mr. Brereton still persevering with his bayonets soon rendered them all confusion, when unfortunately he received a wound from a musket ball at the head of his battalion, which proved mortal. The behaviour of this young corps under major Brereton so emulated the whole army, that they were uncommonly eager to share of the honours in defeating the enemy, whose centre and right wing they attacked with the utmost intrepidity. M. Buffey, endeavouring to make a stand with Lally's regiment, was taken prisoner. At this instant the centre of the enemy fell into disorder, and Lally made a desperate ef-

fort to retrieve his disadvantages, or at least prevent the total ruin which threatened his whole army. He formed the regiment of Lorraine into a column, and putting himself at the head of it, advanced within musket shot of the English with great spirit. Mr. Coote penetrated into his design, and prepared for his reception in the most proper manner. He placed major Monson with two pieces of cannon to flank Lally, and at the same time to support his [Coote's] regiment, which attacked Lally in front; for a few minutes the engagement between these troops was very obstinate, and had the India battalions in the centre kept their fire, the enemy had been effectually cut off. When Lally found himself attacked in front and flank, and that his efforts were vain, he wheeled about to the right somewhat disordered, and falling upon his centre, the whole army was in tumult and confusion, and began to retreat on all sides. This was about two o'clock. At first Lally thought to re-enter his camp, and therein fortify himself; but finding he was most closely pursued, he abandoned it with the utmost precipitation, leaving to the victors twenty two pieces of cannon, three thousand two hundred and four round, and one hundred and ten grape shot; besides tumbrels, and other implements belonging to the train. Brigadier-general Bussy, quartermaster-general Godeville, colonel Murphy, and fourteen other officers, were made prisoners; all of whom were wounded, except the two first. The loss of the vanquished is supposed to have amounted to
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near eight hundred men, two hundred and forty of which number were made prisoners. The loss on the side of the conquerors did not exceed two hundred and seventy men killed and wounded. The enemy's army, before the engagement, consisted of two thousand two hundred Europeans, including artillery and cavalry, three hundred Cofferies, and between nine and ten thousand black troops, with twenty pieces of cannon in the field, and five on their batteries against the fort of Wandewash, where they blew up a large magazine of powder upon their retreat. The army of colonel Coote amounted to seventeen hundred Europeans, including artillery and cavalry, three thousand black troops, with fourteen pieces of cannon, and one howitz.

Lieutenant-general Lally retreated to Chittiput, about eighteen miles south-west from the field of battle, under the walls of which place he collected his fugitives, and then continued his retreat towards Pondicherry in the best manner he was able. The English cavalry were too much fatigued in the action to pursue the enemy as far as Mr. Coote could have wished; therefore Lally made a pretty orderly retreat, when he had gained the distance of three or four miles from Wandewash.

M. Coote, after having given his troops some rest, resolved to besiege Chittiput; but first he detached captain de Vasserot, with one thousand horse, and three hundred sipoys, to scour the country of the French stragglers, to destroy all the fences, ambuscades, &c. and to cut off the commu-

communication between Chittiput and Pondicherry. Then he marched the army to Chittiput, and on the twenty eighth in the evening, opened a battery against the place. Next day, a breach being made, the governor Le Chevalier de Tilly was desirous to capitulate; but could obtain no other terms than surrendering prisoners of war: the garrison consisted of four officers, fifty four private men, and three hundred sipoys. There were found in the place seventy three wounded Europeans in the hospital, nine pieces of cannon, and a good quantity of ammunition. Mr. Coote at this time received intelligence, that a party of the enemy were going from Arcot to Gingey; upon which he sent out captain Smith with a detachment to intercept them, while he marched with the army to retake Arcot. Captain Smith succeeded so well, that by the thirtieth day of January 1760, he rejoined the army, having taken the party he was sent in quest of, which consisted of ten Europeans, fifty sipoys, and two pieces of brass cannon; and soon after he took a captain of the Lorrain regiment, and three French commissaries.

The colonel continuing his march to Arcot, left major Monson to summon Timmery, and throw a few shells into it, in case of a resistance. On the second day of February, the major rejoined Mr. Coote before Arcot, having obliged the garrison of Timmery to surrender prisoners of war, consisting of twenty one Europeans, and sixty sipoys. The place was defended by six pieces of cannon, which also fell into the hands of the captors.

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On the fifth day of February, the batterie were opened against Arcot, and the approaches^s carried on to the south-west and west towers of the fort. Arcot, though not a strong place, held out till the tenth, when the besiegers having advanced within sixty yards of the crest of the glacis, the garrison surrendered prisoners of war, amounting to three captains, eight subalterns, two hundred and thirty six private men, and between two and three hundred sipoys. There were found in the place four mortars, twenty two pieces of cannon, and a great quantity of all kinds of military stores. The besiegers had seven men killed, and sixteen wounded; amongst the latter was ensign Macmahon, who acted as engineer.

These signal successes reduced the French to so low an ebb of fortune in that part of the world, that their affairs seemed to border on the brink of destruction; the chief inhabitants of their settlements were now driven into a state of despondency, and their military officers were on the verge of despair. Nothing could be a greater proof of their distress than their circulation of paper-money to their dependents and commercial friends, until it was refused. And in like agonies of extremity the inhabitants of their few remaining settlements were at different times obliged to deliver in their plate, even to their swords and shoe-buckles, that might be coined into rupees, in order to maintain the troops, who were grown intolerably mutinous.

No sooner had Colonel Coote finished the conquest of the immense province of Arcot, than he was ordered to go into the kingdom of Bengal, where troubles were supposed to be again breaking out. Jaffier Aly Cawn was far from enjoying the esteem of the natives; and being conscious of this defect, he kept a numerous army about his person, which still made him more disagreeable; and as the natives of this country are extremely jealous of each others proceedings, besides there were still a great number of adherents to the late Salajud Dowla, most of whom were well wishers to the English; but none could not endure Jaffier, nor indeed had the English looked upon him in the same favourable light since the affair of the Dutch, that they had done before; they had found that under the mask of a spaniel, he concealed the heart of a tyger: in a word, he was ambitious, cool, cunning, prying, cruel, and splenetic. When Colonel Coote began his march for Bengal, he left the direction of affairs on the coast of Coromandel to major Monson. This officer was extremely diligent in clearing the country of the enemy's little settlements, straglers, and detachments, above and below Pondicherry; besides he took the forts of Allumparvey, Permacoil, &c.

Afterwards he advanced to Karical, and laid siege to it, while rear admiral Cornish blocked it up by sea. This fortress, which is ninety miles south from Pondicherry, was at this time the only settlement which the French had on the coast

coast of Coromandel except Pondicherry, and on this account it was of the next importance to them; besides it was a kind of a key to the whole district of Tiruchinapoli. As it was exposed to the sea, the ships of admiral Cornish's squadron bombarded it furiously, while colonel Monson finding it was a regular and strong fortification, determined to attack it vigorously, that the time taken up in reducing it might not be thought tedious. Being pressed hard by land and sea, it surrendered without making any remarkable defence, to the united efforts of major Monson and admiral Cornish; the former of these brave officers had now so effectually cleared the country of the enemy, that upon the face of the whole coast there was not any French military force to be seen, except at Pondicherry, and within a few miles round it.

The French garrison at Karical, when the siege began, entertained opinion that their squadron would soon come to their relief, but this hope vanished. M. d'Ache had failed to the islands of Mauritius, not only to repair the damages he had received from admiral Pococke, but also to take in ship-stores and other necessaries; and presently after he resigned the command to Count d'Estain, and returned to Europe. His successor, instead of going near the coast of Coromandel, set sail with part of the squadron to the island of Sumatra, in order to destroy the English settlements upon it, and he was so successful in this enterprize, that he ravaged,

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plundered, and destroyed almost the whole coast, with very little opposition. The little garrisons of the forts Bender-Abaffi, Mascata, Nattal and Tappanopoly were made prisoners: at the last mentioned place he met with some resistance, and two or three small vessels were taken under these forts. Count d'Estain proceeded next to fort Marlborough, which is built on an eminence about three miles east from Bencoolen. Unfortunately, a little before he approached, the Denham Indiaman had arrived there. Governor Carter persuaded Captain Tryon to stay before the place, as the enemy were every day expected, and his force would greatly add to the strength, and he hoped, the safety of the fort. On the 2d of April, 1760, Count d'Estain with two ships appeared before the fort, and as one of them, full of men, bore down upon the Denham, it was judged proper to set her immediately on fire, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy; which was accordingly done, and the crew had just time enough to escape; they were kindly received into the fort, where, with this addition, the number of Europeans did not exceed 300 men. On the 3d the enemy came to an anchor as near as possible to the fortification, and as they at first appeared under English colours, they continued them flying till four o'clock in the afternoon, when they began to cannonade the fort for about two hours, and then ceased. The fire was returned, but not to do them any damage, as governor Carter had only eight guns which could reach them. In the night the
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fort was abandoned, and next morning the enemy landed without opposition. Had they been attacked during their landing, or in their boats before they gained the shore, there is the greatest probability to believe they would have been defeated; but the garrison had fled into the country, and devoted themselves up to despair; mean while the enemy took possession of fort Marlborough and the town of Bencoolen. On Good-Friday the fugitives surrendered to the enemy, in order to avoid being cut to pieces by the natives, which they had reason to expect if they continued in that defenceless condition. The French commander promised that their effects and private property should be secured for them, but his proceedings were quite to the contrary; he allowed his soldiers and sailors, who came thither in rags, to plunder and ransack all the houses, and put on the cloaths of the inhabitants, as well as to steal and put on board the ships all the moveable effects they could find. In June they were sent away to Batavia, and from thence to Bengal; but before they arrived at this latter place many died of the flux, occasioned by the bad food which they had from the French. A dispute at this time broke out between general Lally at Pondicherry, and governor Pigot at Fort St. George, concerning the cartel for the exchange of prisoners, which prevented the garrison of fort Marlborough taking the benefit of it.

Immediately after the surrender of Karical, colonel Monson began his march for Pondicherry,

cherry, and came within fight of this dernier resource of the French about the beginning of September. As Pondicherry was fortified by a boundary or chain of redoubts and intrenchments, it was determined to attack these first, that a regular siege might be carried on against the town itself. At day break on the 10th the colonel, with a party of Highlanders, landed from the Sandwich Indiaman, and a party of Draper's and Coote's regiments attacked the fort of Aracupong, about seven miles from Pondicherry : it was almost inaccessible, being defended by a thick wood lined with cannon and a large battery. The Highlanders attacked the enemy in the wood sword in hand, and drove them out ; the others reserved their fire till they came within fight of the French, when giving them a full discharge, they fled precipitately. The Highlanders cut through a hedge, and rushing upon the enemy's cannon, seized them immediately ; but unfortunately colonel Monson, who had put himself at the head of this little corps, in order to give greater spirit to the action, received a cannon-shot in his thigh, which broke it. The enemy perceiving the English in possession of their cannon abandoned the fort and fled to Pondicherry. Of the 22 pieces which were taken, 16 or 17 were loaded almost to the mouths with square bars of iron, at least six inches long, and lesser pieces of jagged iron, &c. Colonel Monson's misfortune prevented this advantage being made the best use of at present ; but colonel Coote was no sooner inform-
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ed of this disaster, than he prepared to assume the command, and immediately began his march from Madras, which he had reached in his way to Bengal, for Pondicherry. In a short time after his arrival the enemy were driven from all their outworks, and they had not a single post or redoubt but what were within the walls. He next formed the blockade, which was done in so effectual a manner, that there was not the least communication between the inhabitants of the town and the natives of the country. His army consisted of no more than 3500 Europeans, and about 7000 sipoys. In the mean time the admirals Stevens and Cornish, with the fleet, formed the blockade by sea.

Thus was Pondicherry shut up on every side, so that it could not receive reinforcements, or supplies, from any part. Tho' no operations of a siege were yet carried on, nor the town, in the least, pressed from any quarter, yet a great number of deserters came from it; principally owing to the general dislike, and even hatred, which were shewn to Monsieur Lally, the governor. He had shot one of his officers, and hanged two others, for murmuring at his proceedings, which occasioned the number of deserters to increase considerably. It cannot be doubted that Lally was an excellent soldier, possessed great martial abilities, with an enlivening wit, and a large fund of good sense; but all these qualities were obscured in a savage ferocity of temper, in which his mildest of cruelties seemed like the transports of rage: pride was in
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him, perhaps, carried to the highest pitch it ever was in any man: he despised every person that was below the character or dignity of a general, and his contempt of mankind brought the contempt and detestation of mankind on himself; yet, with all this haughtiness of spirit, he was a beast in his person, and has frequently been known to wear the same shirt, stockings and slippers for weeks together.

As the monsoon season was every day expected to set in, colonel Coote thought it most prudent not to open any trenches against the town, till the tempestuous and rainy weather was over, but only to continue a strict blockade, which, he was sensible, must, in time, reduce the enemy to great hardships by the want of provisions. There being some ships in the harbour, which had got in at the beginning of the year, admiral Stevens judged it necessary to cut them out, to prevent their escaping to the islands, and returning to the garrison with supplies, which it was expected they would, as they were preparing to sail. Accordingly, on the 6th of October in the evening, the boats were manned and armed, and at two o'clock next morning they rowed into the harbour, and attacked, under the walls of the town, the *Balcine*, a French frigate, and the *Hermoine*, an Indiaman, with such uncommon spirit and alacrity, that, notwithstanding the enemy's crews made a vigorous opposition, and there was a warm fire of both cannon and musquetry from the town, they cut their cables, and carried them off to the squadron.

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The season now beginning to grow precarious, the admirals Stevens and Cornish prepared to leave the coast of Coromandel during the monsoons, and retire to the Dutch island of Ceylon, where they could refit the squadron, and shelter it from the storms which were expected to come on. Agreeable to this resolution they set sail on the 23d, and committed the blockade of Pondicherry by sea to captain Haldane, with five ships of the line. By this time the garrison and inhabitants began to be in great distress for provisions. Lally found means to convey an account of his situation and miseries to the commander of the French fleet; upon which seven of the ships sailed away for the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived there in December, in order to take in eight months provision for 16,000 men; but as they did not depart again till January, it was impossible they should arrive at Pondicherry time enough to give the garrison any relief.

As to the operations of the siege, the best, and indeed the only authentic account which has yet been received, is contained in colonel Coote's letter to the secretary of state, which is as follows :

“ On the 9th of November, says the colonel, I ordered a ricochet battery for four pieces of cannon to be erected to the northward, at about 1400 yards from the town, more with a design to harass the enemy, than any damage we could think of doing to the works at so great a distance. On the 10th we began to land our stores, and to prepare every thing for the carrying
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ing on the siege with vigour. The rains being over by the 26th, I imagined the distresses of the enemy might be much augmented, and garrison duty rendered very fatiguing, if some batteries were erected on different quarters of the town: I therefore gave directions to the engineers to pitch on proper places, at such distances, and in such situations, that the shot from them might enfilade the works of the garrison, and our men and guns not be exposed to any certain fire of the enemy. Accordingly, the following batteries were traced out, one (called the Prince of Wales's) for four guns, near the beach on the north side, to enfilade the great street, which runs north and south through the White town: one for four guns and two mortars, to the north-west quarter, at 1000 yards distance, to enfilade the north face of a large counterguard, before the north-west bastion, called the Duke of Cumberland's: a third, called Prince Edward's, for two guns, to the southward, at 1200 yards distance, to enfilade the streets from south to north, so as to cross the fire from the northern battery: and a fourth to the south-west, called Prince William's, for two guns and one mortar, at 1100 yards distance, in order to destroy the guns in St. Thomas's redoubt, and to ruin the vessels and boats near it. On the 8th, at midnight, they were all opened together, and continued firing till day light. On the 9th, the enemy kept up a warm fire on our batteries, without doing much damage to them. On the 25th admiral Stevens, with four ships of the line, arrived

arrived off Pondicherry, having parted company with admiral Cornish and his division, the 16th instant, in hard weather. On the 29th, a battery, called the Hanover, was begun, for ten guns and three mortars, to the northward, at 450 yards distance from the town, against the north-west counterguard and curtain.

“ On the 1st of January, 1761, we had a very violent storm of wind and rain: it began at eight o'clock in the evening, and lasted till between three and four the next morning. I gave directions for the repairing our batteries, which the storm had almost ruined, and the putting every thing into the best order our present situation would admit.”*

“ On the 4th we had again the agreeable fight of admiral Stevens. On the 5th I attacked a post of very great consequence to the enemy, in which were 4 twenty-eight pounders, called St. Thomas's redoubt, and carried it without any loss. At day-light on the 6th, 300 of the enemy's grenadiers retook it, owing to the officer commanding the redoubt not being able to keep his Sipoy's together. This day admiral Cornish arrived; and, as most of the ships, which had been disabled, were now refitted, the blockade of Pondicherry was as compleat as ever. On

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* At this time many deserters came to the English camp, and reported, that so great was the distress among the garrison for provisions, that a cat had been known to sell for 20 s. sterling; and that half of a dog had been sold for 16s. They had supported themselves a considerable time on a cocoa-nut-tree, the heart of which they cut and boiled. A pint of rice sold for two pagods or 16s. Their fire at present was very slow, but after the 9th it was tolerably brisk.

the 12th, the Hanover battery, being repaired, kept up a very brisk fire, and greatly damaged the counter-guard and bastion, and made a breach in the curtain. On the 13th, in the evening, I ordered a working-party of 700 Europeans, and 400 Lascars, with the pioneers company, under the command of a major, to the Northward, where the engineers had traced out a battery for 11 guns and 3 mortars. At eight o'clock they began a trench for introducing gabions of four feet high, which were to form the interior facing of the battery. At the same time a parallel was begun, 90 yards in the rear, of 250 yards long, and an approach of 400 yards in length. Notwithstanding the moon shone very bright, and the battery within 500 yards of the walls, every thing went on without the least disturbance from the enemy. By morning six embrasures were in a condition to receive guns, and the rest far advanced. This was called the Royal battery. On the 14th the Hanover battery kept up a constant fire the whole day, which entirely ruined the west face and flank of the north-west bastion. On the 15th the Royal battery was opened, which, by eight o'clock in the morning, silenced the fire of the enemy, and gave us an opportunity of beginning a trench, to contain our Royal mortars, and three guns, for the more speedy demolition of the demi-bastion and ravelin of Madrafs-gate. This evening colonel Durre, of the royal artillery, the chief of the Jesuits, and two Civilians, were sent out by M. Lally, with proposals for the

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the delivering up the garrison. On the 16th, at eight o'clock in the morning, the grenadiers of my regiment took possession of the Villenour gate; and, in the evening, those of Draper's of the citadel. The commissaries were immediately ordered to take an account of all the military stores found in the place."

To this detail of the siege we must add one of another circumstance, which belongs to it, but is of a different complexion. The admirals, animated with zeal for the service they were on, renewed the blockade of Pondicherry before the tempestuous weather was over; they knew some of the enemy's ships had been sent to the Cape of Good Hope, to take in provisions for the garrison, and that they were shortly expected on the coast of Coromandel; and were therefore resolved to have a sufficient force to prevent any succours being thrown into the town. Unfortunately on the first of January, about ten o'clock at night, such a violent storm came on, that admiral Stevens soon found it would be impossible to weather it out; therefore he ordered the ships to cut their cables and put to sea; but the wind shifting a few minutes after, drove the Aquitain and Sunderland, two 60 gun ships, on the coast, where they foundered, and their whole crews, except eleven men, perished: the Newcastle of 50 guns, the Queenborough of 20, and the Protector fire-ship were also drove ashore and lost; but most of their crews were saved, as well as their cannon and stores; three other ships were dismasted, but providentially

the remainder of the squadron did not receive much damage, and part of it was entirely out of the storm, though only at ten leagues distance. These were the ships which left Ceylon after admiral Stevens, and were now on their passage to join him, which they did when he returned to Pondicherry road, a day or two after the storm had subsided; and their seasonable assistance was of the utmost importance at this critical time. The damaged ships were repaired as fast as possible, and every thing on board the fleet put in a proper state of defence, in case of an attack from the French squadron, whose appearance they every day expected.

As soon as general Lally was informed of the misfortune which had befallen the English fleet, he immediately ordered a public thanksgiving; but with the cruelty of an infidel, he ordered his garrison to fire at one of the wrecks which the wind drove near the harbour, lest any body should be saved; in return for which, providence seems to have rewarded him according to the desert of his inhumanity; though the beach was covered with the ships provisions, any of which would have been a comfortable relief to the distressed garrison, yet the sea did not wash a bit near the fort. At the same time he dispatched a letter to Monsieur Raymond, the French resident at Pullicat, which was intercepted by admiral Stevens; and of which the following is a literal translation.

Pondicherry,

Pondicherry, January 2, 1761

Mr. RAYMOND,

‘ The English Squadron is no more, Sir :
 ‘ out of the twelve ships they had in our road,
 ‘ seven are lost, crew and all ; the four others
 ‘ dismasted ; and it appears there is no more
 ‘ than one frigate that hath escaped ; therefore
 ‘ don’t lose an instant to send us chelingoos upon
 ‘ chelingoos loaded with rice : the Dutch have
 ‘ nothing to fear now ; besides (according to
 ‘ the rights of the nations) they are only to send
 ‘ us no provisions *themselves*, and we are no
 ‘ more blocked up by sea.”

‘ The saving of Pondicherry hath been in
 ‘ your power once already : if you miss the pre-
 ‘ sent opportunity, it will be intirely your fault :
 ‘ don’t forget also small chelingoos : offer great
 ‘ rewards : I expect seventeen thousand mo-
 ‘ rattoes within these four days. In short,
 ‘ risque all, attempt all, force all, and send us
 ‘ some rice, should it be but half a garse at a
 ‘ time.”

(Signed)

LALLY.’

As letters of this kind might have been sent to other persons, which the admiral had not the good fortune to intercept, he immediately wrote and dispatched circular letters to all the Dutch and Danish settlements, acquainting them, ‘ that notwithstanding the representations of ‘ general Lally, he had eleven sail of his ‘ Britannick majesty’s ships of the line, and two ‘ frigates, under his command, in condition for ‘ service,

‘ service, holding the blockade of Pondicherry ;
 ‘ and as that place was closely invested and
 ‘ blockaded by land and sea ; and as, in that case,
 ‘ it was contrary to the law of nations for any
 ‘ neutral power to give them any succour or
 ‘ relief, he had determined to seize any vessel
 ‘ or boat that should attempt to throw any
 ‘ provisions into that place.’

Lally, in certain expectation of relief from the
 French Squadron, allowed himself to be blockaded
 within the town, for eight months; till at
 length, not having a morsel of any thing to eat,
 he was compelled by famine to surrender : and
 it must be owned that he had great abilities to
 defend the place to the last extremity, with a
 garrison by whom he was utterly detested.
 However before he gave up the place, he sent
 some proposals to Mr. Coote, of which the
 following is a translation,

‘ The taking of Chandernagore, contrary to
 ‘ the faith of treaties, and of that neutrality
 ‘ which has always subsisted between all Euro-
 ‘ pean nations, and namely, between the two
 ‘ nations in this part of India, and that imme-
 ‘ diately after a signal service which the French
 ‘ nation had rendered the English, not only in
 ‘ taking no part against them with the Nabob
 ‘ of Bengal, but in receiving them in their
 ‘ settlements, to give them time to recover
 ‘ from their first losses (as appears by the letters
 ‘ of thanks from Mr. Pigot himself, and from
 ‘ the council of Madras to that of Pondicherry)
 added

‘ added to the formal refusal of fulfilling the
 ‘ conditions of a cartel, agreed upon between
 ‘ our respective masters, tho’ it was at first ac-
 ‘ cepted by Mr. Pigot, and the commissaries
 ‘ were named on both sides to go to Sadrast to
 ‘ settle amicably the difficulties which might
 ‘ occur in its execution, put it out of my power,
 ‘ with respect to my court to make or propose to
 ‘ Mr. Coote any capitulation for the town of
 ‘ Pondicherry.’

‘ The king’s troops, and those of the com-
 ‘ pany, surrender themselves, for want of pro-
 ‘ visions, prisoners of war of his Britannic
 ‘ majesty, upon the terms of the cartel, which
 ‘ I reclaim equally for all the inhabitants of
 ‘ Pondicherry, as well as for the exercise of the
 ‘ Roman religion, the religious houses, hospi-
 ‘ tals, chaplains, surgeons, servants, &c. refer-
 ‘ ring myself to the decision of our two courts
 ‘ for reparation proportioned to the violation of
 ‘ so solemn a treaty.’

‘ Accordingly Mr. Coote may take possession
 ‘ to-morrow morning at eight o’clock of the
 ‘ gate of Villenour; and after to-morrow at
 ‘ the same hour of that of Fort St. Louis; and
 ‘ as he has the power in his own hands, he will
 ‘ dictate such ulterior dispositions to be made, as
 ‘ he shall judge proper.’

‘ I demand, merely from a principal of justice
 ‘ and humanity, that the mother and sisters of
 ‘ Rezasail be permitted to seek an asylum where
 ‘ they please, or that they remain prisoners
 ‘ among the English, and be not delivered up
 ‘ into

‘ into Mahomet Ally Caun’s hands,* which are
 ‘ still red with the blood of the husband and
 ‘ father, that he has spilt, to the shame indeed
 ‘ of those who gave them up to him; but not
 ‘ less to the shame of the commander of the
 ‘ English army, who should not have allowed
 ‘ such a piece of barbarity to be committed in
 ‘ his camp.’

‘ As I am tied up by the cartel in the decla-
 ‘ ration which I make to Mr. Coote, I consent
 ‘ that the gentlemen of the council of Pondi-
 ‘ cherry may make their own representations to
 ‘ him, with regard to what may more im-
 ‘ mediately concern their own private interests,
 ‘ as well as the interest of the inhabitants of the
 ‘ colony.

‘ Done at Fort Louis, off Pondicherry, the
 ‘ 15th day of January, 1761.

Signed,

To colonel Coote, Commander in Chief
 of His Britannic Majesty’s Forces
 before Pondicherry.

LALLY.

To which Mr. Coote returned the following
 answer.

‘ The particulars of the capture of Chander-
 ‘ nagore

* The English themselves had, before this time, imbibed so just
 a sense of abhorrence to the Nabob’s cruelties, and mal-administra-
 tion; that the council at Calcutta had, soon after colonel Coote
 formed the siege of Pondicherry, deposed this treacherous tyrant,
 and elevated to that dignity his son-in-law Mir Mahommed
 Cossim Aly Caun; who, not only confirmed the British East-India
 company’s privileges, but even made valuable new ones, and gave
 a considerable sum of money to his friends. This great and im-
 portant revolution was effected without bloodshed, to the great
 honour of the council, and particularly to Van Sittart the president,
 by whose address and prudence it was principally managed.

† nagore having been long since transmitted to
 † his Britannic majesty, by the officer to whom
 † that place surrendered, colonel Coote cannot
 † take cognizance of what passed on that occa-
 † sion; nor can he admit the same as any way
 † relative to the surrender of Pondicherry.

† The disputes which have arisen concerning
 † the cartel concluded between their Britannic
 † and most Christian majesties, being as yet un-
 † decided, colonel Coote has it not in his power
 † to admit, that the troops of his most Christian
 † majesty, and those of the French East India
 † company, shall be deemed prisoners of war to
 † his Britannic majesty, upon the terms of that
 † cartel; but requires that they surrender them-
 † selves prisoners of war, to be used as he shall
 † think consistent with the interests of the king
 † his master; and colonel Coote will shew all
 † such indulgences as are agreeable to huma-
 † nity.

† Colonel Coote will send the grenadiers of
 † his regiment, between the hours of eight and
 † nine o'clock to-morrow morning, to take pos-
 † session of the Villenour gate; and the next
 † morning, between the same hours, he will
 † also take possession of the gate of Fort St.
 † Lewis.

† The mother and sisters of Roza Saib shall
 † be escorted to Madras, where proper care shall
 † be taken for their safety; and they shall not,
 † on any account, be delivered into the hands
 † of Nabob Mahomud Ally Cawn.

N

Given

‘ Given at the head quarters at the camp
 ‘ before Pondicherry, this 15th day of January,
 ‘ 1761. Signed,
 ‘ EYRE COOTE.’

To Arthur Lally, Esq; Lieutenant-
 General, and Commander in Chief
 of his most Christian Majesty's
 forces in India, at Pondicherry.

As the governor made no kind of articles for the inhabitants, the chief of the Jesuits demanded of the colonel, that their effects and houses should not be injured; but that they should have liberty to move or stay, as they pleased, and continue in the free exercise of their religion, with all their privileges preserved as heretefore. But he returned no answer.

There were found in the place 567 pieces of cannon, iron and brass, 15 howitzers, 89 mortars, and a large quantity of shot, powder, shells, &c. &c. with muskets for upwards of 50,000 men, and a prodigious number of pistols, carbines, swords, bayonets, &c. &c. and great store of every other kind of military necessaries. But, contrary to the expectations of some, who fancied the town was rich, there was no treasure found in it.

It will be an eternal ignominy on Monsieur Lally's character, that, when he marched out of the citadel, which is called Fort Louis, with his garrison, the private men, and many of his officers, saluted him with a loud hiss, and expressed their avowed hatred to his person, by loading him with the most opprobrious names.
 came

His commissary, who had been a dupe to his passions, attempted to vindicate him; but he paid for his officiousness with his life: and even Lally himself, had he not at this instant fled to the English, would also have been assassinated by the incensed soldiery. The garrison consisted of about 1450 men, composed of the king's and company's troops. When the last accounts came from India, the British troops were preparing to blow up the fortifications, and, it is believed, will totally erase them, in the same manner as general Lally did when he took Fort St. David in the year 1758.

We cannot dismiss the reader, without making one general observation on the present fallen condition of the French: their affairs in every part of the world seem to correspond; there should appear something more unaccountably wrong and weak in their management, than has ever been known in the conduct of that, or almost any other nation: it seems to argue an essential radical fault in some superior part of their government, more easily indeed visible in its consequences, than discoverable in its cause. On the other hand, the affairs of the English go on flourishingly, victory seems wedded to their toils, and they proceed from conquest to conquest, almost without interruption.

Thus have we finished our account of the war in India; in which we have endeavoured to be as accurate and concise as possible in our relation of every circumstance. We do not pretend to have been possessed of any materials which are
man

not common to every person who reads the public accounts. As we know nothing of the deliberations in councils, we have not attempted to account for facts upon a vague and uncertain report of what passed among them; but, on the contrary, have judged and spoken of every transaction according to its importance and consequences, which ought to be the rule of every man who writes from news-papers and other unauthenticated intelligence. And if the reader shall think we have executed the part of a faithful and impartial compiler, we shall think ourselves amply recompensed; nor shall we presume to take any other merit, than offering to the public a detail of the war in India, from its rise in 1749, to the extinction of the French power there in 1761, at a price that comes within the sphere of every man.



F I N I S.

